

Growing On A Massive Scale

HIGH TIMES

December 491

TOP 10

**STRAINS
OF THE
YEAR**

◀ **Black
Lavender**

Michigan's
**Best
Buds**

**Drug
Myths**
Exposed!

Leonard Peltier
Warrior Behind Bars

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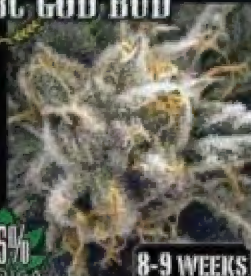
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THE PURPS




HYBRID

7-8 WEEKS

12-SEED PACK \$90
FEMINIZED \$150

BLUEBERRY



80%
INDICA

8 WEEKS

12-SEED PACK \$90
FEMINIZED \$150

GIRL SCOUT COOKIES **NIGHT NURSE**



HYBRID


9-10 WEEKS

80%
INDICA

7-8 WEEKS

12-SEED PACK \$90
FEMINIZED \$150

CBD GOD



INDICA

8-9 WEEKS

12-SEED PACK \$90

THE BLACK



90%
INDICA

8-10 WEEKS

12-SEED PACK \$75

GOD'S GIFT



80%
INDICA

8-9 WEEKS

12-SEED PACK \$150

THE BIG



80%
INDICA

8-9 WEEKS

12-SEED PACK \$75

SWEET GOD



70%
INDICA

6-8 WEEKS

12-SEED PACK \$75

TEXADA TIMEWARP



70%
Sativa

LATE SEPT. OUTDOOR

12-SEED PACK \$75

BC MANGO



80%
INDICA

7-9 WEEKS

12-SEED PACK \$75

SHATSU KUSH



HYBRID

8 WEEKS

12-SEED PACK \$75

SWEET ISLAND SKUNK



70%
Sativa

8 WEEKS

12-SEED PACK \$75

CHEM FIRE



HYBRID

9-10 WEEKS

12-SEED PACK \$75

DYNAMITE OG



85%
INDICA

7-8 WEEKS

12-SEED PACK \$75

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90%
INDICA

6-7 WEEKS

12-SEED PACK \$75

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HYBRID

8 WEEKS

12-SEED PACK \$75
FEMINIZED \$125

WHITE WIDOW



75%
INDICA

8-10 WEEKS

12-SEED PACK \$75
FEMINIZED \$125

BC KUSH




75%
INDICA

8-9 WEEKS

12-SEED PACK \$75
FEMINIZED \$125

ANIMAL COOKIES




HYBRID

9-10 WEEKS

12-SEED PACK \$90

STRAWBERRY COUGH



75%
Sativa

9 WEEKS

12-SEED PACK \$125
FEMINIZED \$125

SOGAL MASTER KUSH




HYBRID

9-10 WEEKS

12-SEED PACK \$75
FEMINIZED \$125

NORTHERN LIGHTS




70%
INDICA

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Strain(s): _____
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HIGH TIMES DECEMBER



The medical cannabis produced on this farm will be used to treat a range of conditions—everything from life-threatening cancer to arthritis, multiple sclerosis and child epilepsy.

—Chile Grows Big!, page 89

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Leonard Peltier has spent nearly four decades in prison in one of the worst miscarriages of justice in our history. Behind bars, he has become a stalwart voice for Native American rights. *By Malcolm MacKinnon*

59 State of Bliss

High Times returns to the Clio, Michigan, for our first-ever Medical Cannabis Country Fair Cup. *By Samantha Nicholas*

69 10 Stupid Drug Myths

We deal with anti-pot fabrications daily. Here are 10 of the most pathetic drug-related lies that we've ever encountered. *By Sophie Saint Thomas*

75 The Top 10 Strains of 2016

View our illustrious list of the year's highest-rated pot strains, including the Cannabis Cup winners, aficionado selections and medical marijuana varieties. *By Danny Danko and Cesar Soriano*

89 Chile Grows Big!

Take an insider's tour of a massive medical marijuana farm in South America that boasts over 6,500 plants grown from Paradise Seeds strains, which will ultimately yield more than 2,000 kilograms of healing cannabis.

98 Stoners Are Smarter

The old clichés about stoners are proving false and falling by the wayside. Recent research demonstrates that people who use cannabis are incisive, intelligent and highly motivated. *By Rick Thompson*

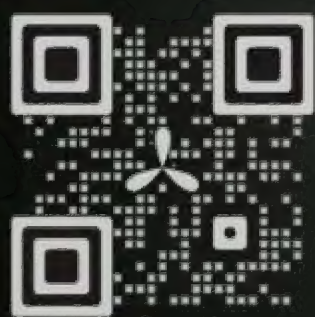
107 The High Times Interview: Banjo

If there's a superstar of the glass industry, it's gotta be Banjo. A brilliant artist, he also reveals himself as a dedicated family man and a thoughtful, insightful observer of the counterculture. *By Dan Skye*

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On Instagram

Instagram has a nasty habit of deleting pot-related accounts without explanation, offering users who have cultivated large and loyal followings no recourse. Sadly, this happened recently to our friends at Exotic Genetix, who contemplated early retirement from the social-networking site after getting deleted and losing 135,000 followers. Fortunately for everyone who loves great pot shots, @exotic_genetix has decided to rebuild. So if you like this pic of their Black Mamba strain, give them a follow.



Terry Sharp
hard at work
on a new
creation



Glass Artist of the Month: Terry Sharp

Like many glass artists, Terry Sharp (Instagram @TerrySharp) started his career in Eugene, OR, making production pieces for a local company. That was back in September of 1997.

Upon returning to Indianapolis, IN, Terry took a class with Marcel and Jason Lee, two of the industry's top glassblowers, which changed his artistic direction. Since then, he's dedicated himself to achieving functional excellence in both design and technique.

In 2014, Terry moved to Colorado and saw his career blossom. He finished second in the Denver CHAMPS Glass Games last year, which provided the opportunity to participate in the 2015 Glass Games Master Event in Las Vegas. At the 2016 Summer Glass Games in Vegas, he took second place in the "White Elephant," an event that randomly matched him with another artist whose work he completed at the show.

Currently, Terry is the day manager of Mean Screens Studio, working with several talented artists in the Denver area.

Check out Terry's work at hightimes.com.



We Want To Hear From You!

Tweet your best high observations and comments our way @HIGH_TIMES_Mag for a chance to be featured on this page! And be sure to follow us on Facebook (Facebook/HIGHTIMES-Mag) and Instagram (@hightimesmagazine) for all the latest news as it's happening!

@x101004: I want to see @MichaelPhelps on the cover of @HIGH_TIMES_Mag with all his medals after the #RioOlympics2016.

@mae_underwo: @HIGH_TIMES_Mag Cannabis is not a drug. It's to medicate. Legalize, people. Please we need more yes votes for legalization.

@highergtv: @HIGH_TIMES_Mag The DEA didn't screw up by refusing to reschedule, they screwed up by not taking it off completely!

@OminousPharaoh: @HIGH_TIMES_Mag Of course the #DEA refused it, think how many of their jobs would become irrelevant and phased out! #bullshit

@KaraanPowell: Easy-Bake Oven should do a #special edition "Easily Baked Oven" that makes special brownies. @HIGH_TIMES_Mag sponsor this shit.

@sobermama98: @HIGH_TIMES_Mag I pray for the day Idaho legalizes.

@rophyOFspirit: @HIGH_TIMES_Mag Dosing anyone with anything is a total douchebag move.

@SpacemanTheFilm: #SPACEMAN suffered a crushing 5-4 defeat to @High_Times_Mag in #CentralPark softball, but good times were had by all.

@JDiablo: bout to start making hella wax with a flat iron @HIGH_TIMES_Mag

@Matelanyan4change: @HIGH_TIMES_Mag What's not to like about a plant that can heal, create jobs and provide a good time!

Smoking Poll

A report by Bloomberg News released this summer found that the average legal-cannabis consumer in Washington State spends \$647 annually on pot. The report reached this estimate using data from the 40,000 recreational pot purchases made between September 2014 and July 2016.

Of course, the cost of cannabis in states with regulated medical or recreational pot programs tends to be lower than the black-market prices that many stoners are still forced to pay. With that in mind, we asked our readers how much, on average, they spend on pot in a year.

Needless to say, *High Times* readers are singularly devoted to cannabis. So it wasn't surprising to learn that, of the 6,152 people who responded, the vast majority (73 percent) reported spending more than \$900 a year on pot. All of the other options offered in the poll barely registered. An annual bud budget of \$700 to \$900 came in second with 7 percent of the vote, while \$100 to \$300 per year finished last, with just 4 percent of the total.

Take our latest poll online at hightimes.com!



How Much Do You Spend Per Year On Pot?

Less than \$100	5%
\$100 - \$300	4%
\$300 - \$500	5%
\$500 - \$700	6%
\$700 - \$900	7%
More than \$900	73%

6,152 Votes

EARTH JUICE

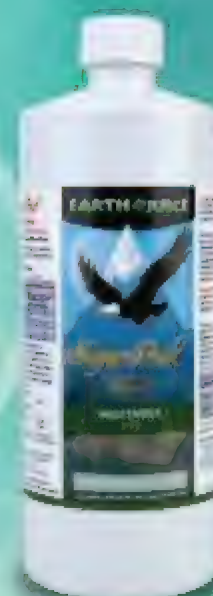
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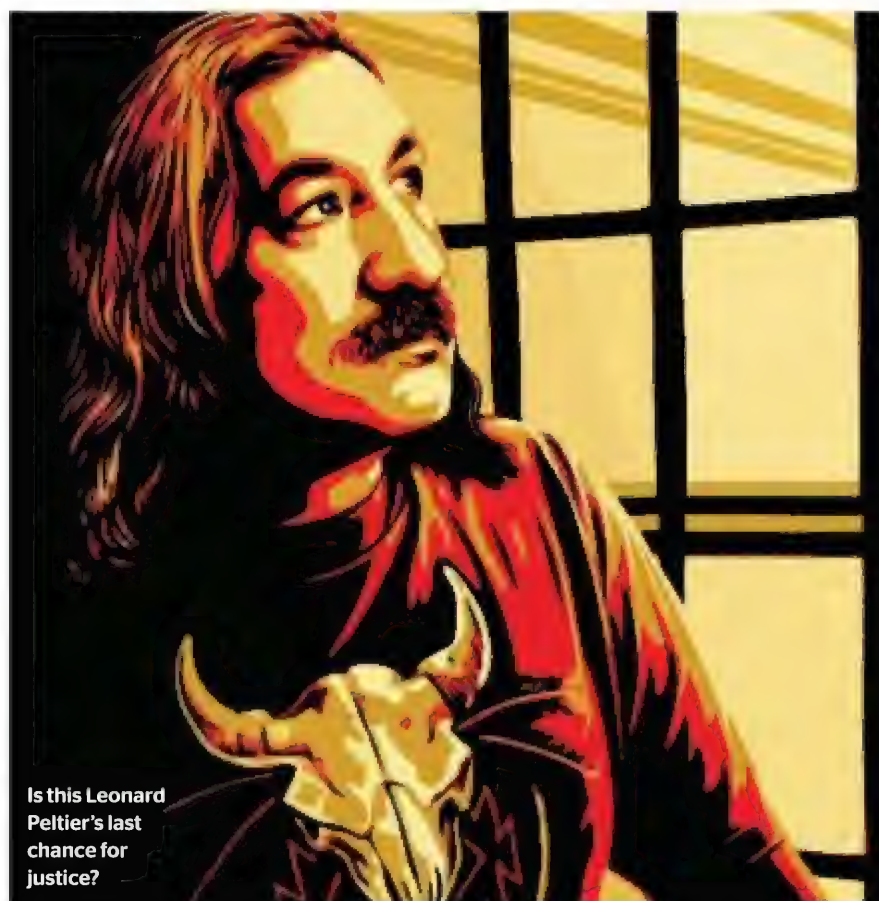


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Is this Leonard Peltier's last chance for justice?

The Case of Leonard Peltier

I've used a pen name for the 20 years I've been working at *High Times*. There were several reasons for this.

I was the executive editor of our sister magazine *Hemp Times* from 1996 to '99 and thought it would be a good idea to keep my writing credits separate. I was also coaching Little League and didn't want any "straight" parents complaining about the stoner coach.

In this issue, I write about my visit with Native American political prisoner Leonard Peltier, who has spent nearly 40 years in prison as the victim of one of the worst miscarriages of justice in US history. In my application to see him, it was necessary to use my real name. But I wasn't required to reveal that I work for *High Times*. Because I don't want to raise the Feds' hackles or cause Leonard any problems in prison, I'm using my real name in the byline. But who really cares at this point? In time, cannabis will be legal everywhere. The stigma of working with pot has already faded greatly. It's actually becoming respectable.

High Times has continually covered Leonard's case, publishing three interviews with him. I've exchanged letters with Leonard for years and have gotten to know him a little. I've devoted a great deal of my photographic work to modern Indian life. In prison, Leonard has become an outstanding artist, and I'm honored that he has used many of my photos as inspiration for his paintings. I was also honored to meet with him for several hours for our latest article.

Leonard needs our help. When you read the facts of his imprisonment, you'll be appalled. We urge you to find out more about his case, and we implore you to write the White House and your federal legislators. Demand justice for Leonard Peltier. Help us keep up the pressure for a presidential pardon. Free him now!

Dan Skye
Editor-in-Chief

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Don't Move to Colorado!

Why would Danny Danko tell some dumb Texas fuck to move to my state ("Dear Danko," Sept. '16)? It's my state, and the reason pot is legal here is because we made it legal by voting! So tell people to get their state legal and quit sending people my way, please!

Texans are the rudest people—they think they own everything, and they don't. Plus if you do move here, you can only grow three plants, so is it worth pissing off a bunch of *High Times* readers who might quit buying your magazine? Quit telling people to fucking move here!

*Brandon
Somewhere in Colorado*

As far as we know, Americans are still allowed to move to any state they please. As far as Texans being the "rudest people," it sounds like some people in Colorado are challenging them for that title.

Don't Flush!

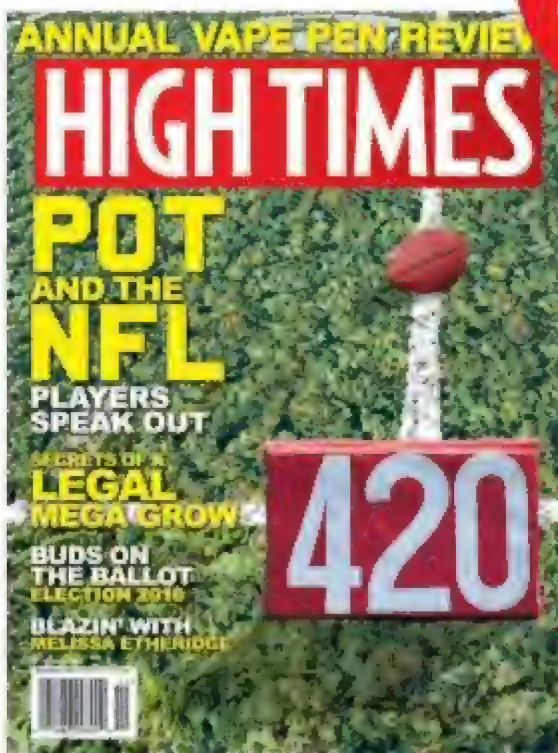
I would like to contest the online information that Danny Danko gave to Mr. Kushyman, advising him to flush an organic plant ("Do Organic Pot Plants Need to Be Flushed?"). You might say I've developed a very simple technique for growing, which involves no flush and no nutes, other than a perfectly balanced growing medium (soil). The results from feedback are perfection in and of itself.

I would highly contest that organic plants need to be flushed at all. I would also add that there's a widely held misconception that flushing removes contaminants. While it can remove particulates from the feeding process, it cannot flush them from the plant as a whole. The moment any nute is added—especially synthetic nutes—they become endemic to the chemistry of the plant.

Ninety-nine percent of the weed out there, in my opinion, is nothing but toxic poison. One merely needs to Google "Why do my throat and lungs hurt when smoking cannabis?" That's the result of toxic growing processes, and it's only the tip of this toxic iceberg.

Growing cannabis, like any other type of farming, is a biological process that requires nurturing and compassionate understanding of natural growing principles. Added chemicals do nothing but artificially boost the yield and contaminate the product.

I would like to inquire: Do you advise



Ninety-nine percent of the weed out there, in my opinion, is nothing but toxic poison.

folks who grow organic outdoors to flush as well? Done right, no flush is ever required, just as in nature.

Senior cultivation editor Danny Danko responds: You make some good points, but I still recommend that all plants be flushed.

Pills, Pot & Vets

This is in response to Gary ("Vexed Veteran" in "Letters," Aug. '16.) Here's how I dealt with the Veterans Administration without losing my meds: Shortly after having some blood work done at the VA, I received a letter informing me that THC had been detected in my system and that I had to bring my medical marijuana certification to my next appointment. When that day came, I told my doctor that I wasn't a medical marijuana patient, but that I smoked a joint at cocktail hour almost every day with my son. I asked, "Are you going to take away my meds for that?" He said no, but then reminded me that my meds were a controlled substance, and to keep that in mind and medicate responsibly. That was the end of the problem.

Now here's the interesting part: I've been smoking with my son for years and have had blood work done many times since 1982, when I left the Army. It was

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only after I told the VA that I was feeling so much better and would

like to cut my Vicodin prescription down from 120 pills every two months to 60 that THC in my system became an issue. The VA still sends me 120 pills every two months, despite my request. And we wonder why America has a pharmaceutical-abuse problem. What a bunch of fucking idiots!

*Mitch J. Pawsey
Roseville, CA*

Cannabis Diet

First, I live in a prohibition state. I was 480 pounds when I first decided to lose weight; today, I'm 205. I was in horrible health and probably would be dead by now if I hadn't decided to change. I have pictures of me throughout my diet. The first is of me on the day I started, holding

a cigarette case filled with joints. I knew cannabis would help me; that's why I included it in that first picture. I truly believe this is a miracle plant and should be legal. It can help with so many things: depression, weight loss, anxiety. But instead, doctors would rather cut someone open to lose weight or put them on often-dangerous prescriptions to treat depression or anxiety. Nature provided me with the best treatment. I hope my story will help!

*Rodney Rappe
Ohio*

Poetry Prohibition

Does *High Times* publish poems that describe the state of feeling high?

Arjun Dahal

The answer would be no. As a matter of fact, we once had a poetry editor whose sole duty was to prevent poetry from ever appearing in the magazine.

Message From the Other Side

I still exist, although my form is different. You can still trust that I'm down for the ganja herb.

*Mikey Neides
Everett, WA*



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CHILE GROWS BIG! Feast your eyes on over 6500 massive medical marijuana plants growing deep in South America. Here on this farm, between the Andes and the ocean, The Daya Foundation will provide thousands of patients with healing cannabis. Read more on page 89. *Photo courtesy of Paradise Seeds.*





TOP 10 STRAINS These beautiful colas of Gorilla Glue #4, grown to perfection and rapidly approaching ripeness, exemplify our picks for 2016's finest marijuana varieties. Feast your eyes upon more beautiful buds and check out the rest of our illustrious choices for this year's best pot strains on page 75. *Photo by Lochfoot*

**Contact
High**



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December 2016 High Times

MICHIGAN'S BEST BUDS Behold some of the glorious winners from the first-ever High Times Medical Cannabis Country Fair Cup, which took place at the Auto City Speedway in Clio, MI. Check out all the winning cannabis, concentrates, edibles, topicals and vape pens from the latest Michigan Cup on page 66! *Photos by Lochfoot*

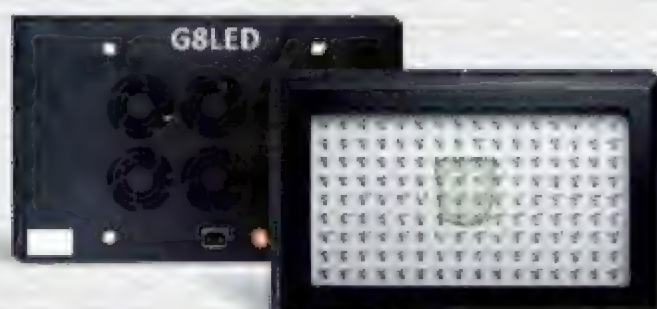
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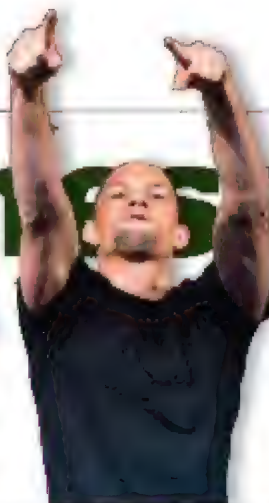
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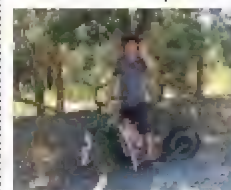
Nate Diaz
vapes at
post-fight
presser!



Style

High Style

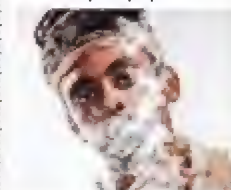
This zero-emissions scooter could become the outdoor grower's alt vehicle of choice. p.30



Entertainment

Vritra

As a composer/singer/multi-instrumentalist, Vritra is blazing his own trail in hip-hop. p.34



Sheldon Adelson
contemplates his
next nefarious
deed.



Billionaire Buzzkill

Sheldon Adelson has used his immense fortune to thwart medical marijuana at the ballot box. *By Russ Belville*

In 2014, Florida was fixing to become the first Southern state to legalize medical marijuana. Activists put together a professional campaign funded mostly by millionaire attorney John Morgan. Florida resident Cathy Jordan, one of the world's longest-surviving patients with Lou Gehrig's disease (also known as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or ALS), emerged as the symbol of all those who'd be helped by passing the Question 2

medical marijuana amendment. Polls showed massive support in the 70 to 80 percent range—which was important, since constitutional amendments require 60 percent of the vote to pass in Florida.

Enter Sheldon Adelson, who poured \$4 million into a sleazy anti-medical marijuana TV ad campaign. Adelson's participation was solicited by his long-time friend Mel Sembler, a veteran anti-drug crusader who once ran the Straight,

Incorporated tough-love teen “rehab” camps that paid out nearly \$1 million in damages over false-imprisonment and abuse lawsuits.

The TV ads told Floridians that the amendment was so full of loopholes that it would empower drug dealers and turn children into addicts. The ads were successful enough to drop the final “Yes” vote on Question 2 to 58 percent—a landslide victory anywhere else, but a two-point defeat in Florida.

For years, the movement to reform marijuana laws in the United States has been primarily funded by three billionaires: financier George Soros, Peter Lewis of Progressive Insurance and University of Phoenix founder John Sperling. Today, California's legalization campaign is funded mainly by Lewis's estate and Facebook billionaire Sean Parker. And now our opposition has its first billionaire backer: Sheldon Adelson.

Adelson, 83, is currently Forbes's 22nd-richest person in the world, with an estimated net worth of \$27 billion. His fortune was amassed through various business ventures, but today derives from his Las Vegas Sands casino empire, which owns and operates the Venetian, the Palazzo and the Sands Convention Center in Las Vegas, as well as the Sands in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and five more casinos in China and Singapore.

Adelson is also active in Republican politics. His influence is so great that GOP candidates flew to Vegas this year to personally lobby for his support in what pundits called “the Adelson primary.” He endorsed Donald Trump for president and has pledged to donate \$100 million to Trump's campaign. And while Adelson has strong views on taxation and foreign policy, he really hates marijuana.

Sheldon and his second wife, Israeli-born Dr. Miriam Adelson, have been married for 25 years and have four children together. Miriam holds numerous medical degrees and specializes in drug-addiction treatment. She and Sheldon founded the Adelson Clinic, which treats

people for addiction at centers in Las Vegas and Tel Aviv.

Those clinics arose out of a shared interest in combatting drug addiction. Sheldon and his first wife had three adopted children. One of them, Mitchell, “used heroin and cocaine from an early age,” according to Miriam, and died of an overdose in 2005. Another of those children, Gary, was estranged from the Adelsons for years due to his drug addiction.

The Adelsons also formed the Adelson Medical Research Foundation. During the 2014 battle for medical marijuana in Florida, the *Tampa Bay Times* reported that researchers from the Adelson Center for the Biology of Addictive Diseases at Tel Aviv University discovered that “some of the chemical compounds found in marijuana can help treat MS-like diseases in mice.” Today, all of the links to that study return a “Page Not Found” error message.

Despite his own research foundation finding that medical marijuana is beneficial in treating multiple sclerosis—and despite his wife’s medical training in the nation that first isolated THC and leads in med-pot research—marijuana, as far as Adelson is concerned, is the gateway drug that led to the death of his adopted son from hard drugs.

Adelson is notorious for threatening to sue journalists, and his casino empire has been the subject of a Justice Department probe... His casino in Macau has been rumored to be a money-laundering site for the Chinese ruling elite.

Now Florida has the Question 2 medical marijuana amendment on the ballot again, and legalization is on the ballot in Adelson’s home state of Nevada, also as Question 2. But the billionaire buzzkiller isn’t just dropping seven-figure donations on media ads to defeat marijuana-law reform. He’s buying the media itself!

The largest newspaper in Nevada is the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*. Back in 2014, when the Campaign to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol was beginning its signature drive in Nevada, the editorial board endorsed the measure, writing that “taxpayers finally seem to understand that spending vast sums of money at the local, state and federal levels on police, prosecutors, public defenders, judges and jails to lock up nonviolent offenders and enable the enrichment of gangs and thugs has done nothing to diminish demand for marijuana.”

In December 2015, Adelson shelled out \$140 million to buy the newspaper.

In June, the *Review-Journal’s* editorial board withdrew its support for legalization, writing that “legalizing weed would jeopardize the health of countless Nevadans, expose more people to drug abuse and addiction, put excessive stress on the state’s health-care facilities and do little to relieve the state’s bloated prison population.”

Adelson is notorious for threatening to sue journalists, and his casino empire has been the subject of a Justice Department probe. He fancies himself a Republican kingmaker, but the source of his payouts to GOP hopefuls is questionable: His casino in Macau has been rumored to be a money-laundering site for the Chinese ruling elite.

It’s always good to know your enemies, and it’s even better to let everyone else know, too. ✨

“Radical” Russ Belville is host of The Russ Belville Show online.

HIGH FIVE

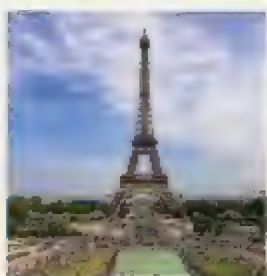
World Hemp Producers

In the United States, hemp is still illegal. It’s a stupid and shortsighted policy, and other nations are putting us to shame. *By Mark Miller*



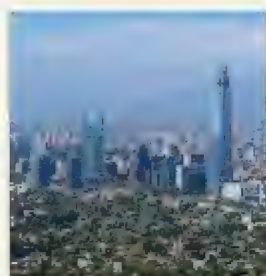
China

The planet’s leading cultivator, China has never banned hemp. It produces approximately 44,000 metric tons annually and is number two in hemp-seed production, accounting for 38 percent of the global total. It leads in producing and exporting hemp textiles and related products. The primary supplier of hemp products to the US, it’s secured over half of the 606 hemp patents recorded worldwide.



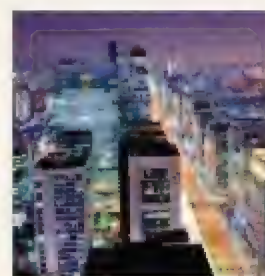
France

The French are the front-runners in hemp-seed production, accounting for a whopping 59 percent of the global total. France also produces the lion’s share of Europe’s pulp and paper, the most important hemp market in the EU, accounting for over 50 percent of fiber applications. French hemp cultivars are suited for grain and fiber production, the specific varieties that industry trends demand.



Chile

South America’s most prodigious producer of hemp, Chile also sets the pace by hosting the continent’s largest hemp trade fair. Chilean hemp production measures about 4,385 tons annually, and the nation ranks as the world’s third-most-important producer of hemp seed. However, the seed isn’t native to Chile, which imports its four primary cultivars from Italy, China and the US state of Kentucky.



South Korea

Second only to China in worldwide hemp-fiber production, South Korea produces 14,000 tons of hemp annually. Hemp originated in Asia, and its versatility allows it to grow both upland and in paddy fields. However, regulations have hindered the expansion of hemp agriculture in South Korea, which is fueling a domestic demand for hemp seed and fiber from countries like Canada.



The Netherlands

It shouldn’t be too mind-blowing to discover that Holland, the land of cannabis coffeshops, also happens to be among the EU leaders in hemp production. Hemp output here has risen dramatically, to 6,614 tons annually. However, there’s concern that insufficient cropland will limit output, so Dutch companies like HempFlax have begun farming operations in Romania.

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The DEA Is a Joke

A long-awaited decision by the DEA regarding the rescheduling of cannabis turned out to be more of the same disingenuous crap we've all come to expect from one of the government's least trustworthy agencies. For the fourth time, the DEA has denied a petition to reclassify cannabis, meaning that pot will remain a Schedule I narcotic alongside drugs like heroin, DMT and LSD.

DEA Administrator Chuck Rosenberg issued the official response, claiming: "This decision is based on whether marijuana, as determined by the FDA, is a safe and effective medicine... and it's not."

Schedule I drugs are officially considered to have "no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States." Of course, 26 states and the District of Columbia now beg to differ, acknowledging marijuana as legitimate medicine for a wide range of diseases.

The Feds will, however, loosen up the hyper-restrictive rules for procuring weed for research, seemingly ending the University of Mississippi's monopoly on cultivating cannabis for scientific study.

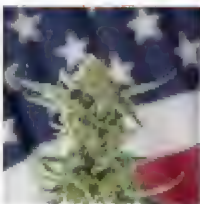
NYC's Pot Busts Up Again

Despite Mayor Bill de Blasio's marijuana-policy change in November 2014, which barred arrests for possession of less than 25 grams of cannabis, petty pot busts in New York City are up nearly 30 percent in the first half of 2016. From January through June, there have been 9,331 marijuana arrests, compared to 7,236 in the same period last year. And a deeper reading of the statistics paints an ugly picture of racial profiling by the NYPD, as just 9 percent of those arrested were white.

The NYPD has a long, terrible history of disproportionately arresting blacks and Latinos for weed. Police Commissioner William Bratton and the mayor's office deny that a racial agenda is reflected in the latest report, but the stats tell a different story.

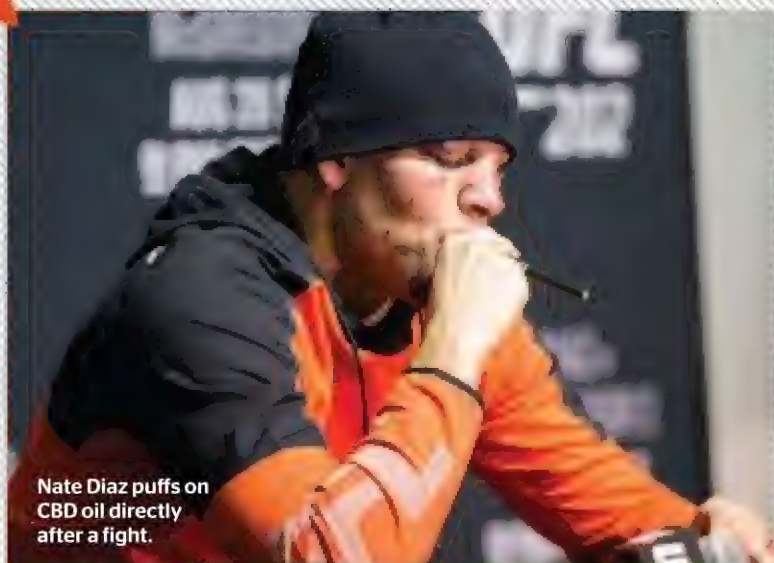
Incredibly, each pointless pot arrest costs the Big Apple \$1,750, meaning the city has already wasted \$16.3 million on weed busts through the first six months of this year.

U.S.JAY



Pot use in the United States is on the rise, according to a recent Gallup Poll that revealed 13 percent of American adults—one in eight—currently consume cannabis. That's nearly double the 7 percent of self-reported pot users in a 2013 Gallup survey. In all, 43 percent of Americans 18 or older now admit to using pot at least once in their lives, compared to 38 percent of respondents in the 2013 poll.

As expected, adults under the age of 30 smoke more than other age groups (19 percent), and men get stoned more than women (12 percent and 7 percent, respectively). Residents of the western states have the highest regional reefer rate (14 percent). While this statistic could be the result of greater availability, it also could be that respondents in states with legal-pot programs feel more comfortable copping to cannabis use, suggesting that the number of current marijuana users nationwide might be even higher.

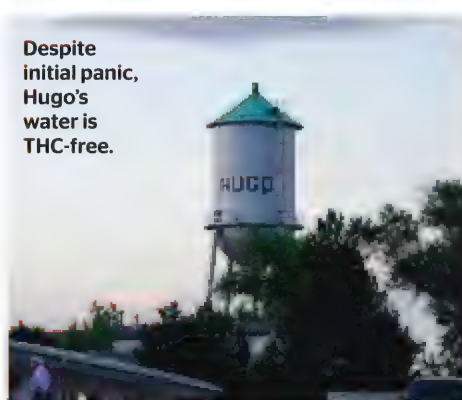


Nate Diaz puffs on CBD oil directly after a fight.

Nate Diaz Vapes Post-Fight

Following his brutal rematch with MMA foe Conor McGregor at UFC 202, Nate Diaz gave a press conference at which he casually toked from a vape pen throughout. The badly battered martial artist, who had just lost a grueling five-round fight by majority decision, fielded questions from the assembled reporters. When someone finally asked Diaz what he was vaping, the fighter responded: "It's CBD. It helps with the healing process and inflammation—stuff like that. So you want to get these for before and after the fights, [and] training. It'll make your life a better place."

Of course, CBD is the non-psychoactive cannabinoid celebrated for its healing properties. Nonetheless, the UFC prohibits cannabis use in any form. So it appears that Diaz would have been better off telling reporters he was vaping addictive nicotine, as his post-fight consumption is now being investigated by the US Anti-Doping Agency, and a possible suspension looms over the fighter's head.



Despite initial panic, Hugo's water is THC-free.

High Water

During the psychedelic '60s, rumors of establishment-hating hippies spiking the public water supply with LSD were rampant. But this past July, a small Colorado town was actually convinced that its water was laced with tetrahydrocannabinol—pot's intoxicating, psychoactive chemical compound.

The cannabinoid panic came about when a shed housing the wellhead for Hugo, CO was broken into. After tests erroneously confirmed the presence of THC, public officials warned residents not to drink the water. This, of course, was immediately picked up by media outlets nationwide, further perpetuating the bizarre rumor. For three days, the town of Hugo—which has banned the cultivation and sale of pot, despite being in a state where recreational cannabis is legal—thought its water supply had been purposefully contaminated by pot-smoking pranksters.

As it turns out, there never was any weed in the water: The (multiple!) drug tests indicating the presence of THC were defective, giving false positives. Independent tests finally confirmed that the water was simply boring old non-psychoactive H₂O.



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Cops Blow Doughnut Case

Two cops in Orlando, Florida, unwittingly took a zero-tolerance stance on glazed donuts late last year when they arrested a 64-year-old man for possession of crystal meth. The officers pulled Daniel Rushing over for speeding out of a 7-Eleven parking lot. During the stop, Cpl. Shelby Riggs-Hopkins spotted some flakes on Rushing's floorboard and, according to her report, "I recognized through my eleven years of training and experience as a law enforcement officer the substance to be some sort of narcotic."

Incredibly, two roadside drug tests confirmed that the flakes were an illegal substance, so Rushing was arrested and taken to jail, where he was strip-searched and locked up for 10 hours before posting a \$2,500 bond.

In the end, all Rushing was guilty of is being a sloppy eater. As he repeatedly insisted to the arresting officers, the flakes in question weren't methamphetamine, but rather the bits of glaze that had fallen off a Krispy Kreme doughnut he had just eaten.

Several weeks later, a crime-lab tech using a drug test that actually fucking works determined that Rushing's "meth" wasn't an illegal substance at all. Three days later, the case was dropped, but the Orlando Police Department still maintains that the arrest was lawful. Rushing plans to sue for damages.

Prison Smuggler Busted

A former guard at the Rowan County Jail in North Carolina is in hot water after being accused of smuggling pot into prison. Things began unraveling for Heather Smith Burgos when an inmate in the jail was caught with an impressive 38 grams of pot and a cell phone. The trail quickly led to Burgos, who decided not to cooperate with investigators and immediately resigned her position as a detention officer. However, that maneuver didn't help: Four days later, an arrest warrant was issued, and Burgos was hit with a felony charge of furnishing a controlled substance to an inmate.

While it's not unusual for prison guards to choose to supplement their income by smuggling contraband to prisoners, it's a precipitous fall when they get caught and end up on the wrong side of the bars.

SCIENCE: MELLOW OUT WITH SOME WEED



As anyone who's witnessed a bar-room brawl can tell you, alcohol facilitates aggressive behavior. Now, new research from a Dutch study published in the September 2016 issue of *Psychopharmacology* confirms that while booze tends to increase feelings of beligerence, cannabis fosters peace.

Participants in the aggression study's "alcohol" group were given either 96 percent ethyl alcohol mixed with orange juice or a placebo; the "cannabis" group got either the placebo or a bag full of vaporized pot with 12 percent THC; and a control group received no intoxicants. Researchers then had the groups complete a series of tests designed to aggravate.

Not surprisingly, the study found that alcohol intoxication increased aggression in the study subjects, while those who consumed THC were less aggressive when high.



Teen Drugs Cop

Although cannabis users have long suffered abuse at the hands of law enforcement, the best way to fight back is by working to change the laws that allow cops to use marijuana possession as a cudgel. The wrong way to fight back is by surreptitiously dosing an officer's beverage with methamphetamine. Unfortunately, a teenage fast-food worker learned this lesson the hard way.

Eighteen-year-old Tanis Lloyd Ukena was putting together an officer's drive-through order at a Subway restaurant in Layton, Utah, when he allegedly decided to slip something extra in the sergeant's drink. After driving off with the order, the officer began to feel the effects of the meth and THC with which Ukena is accused of dosing him. After the sergeant was transported to a local hospital, investigators returned to the Subway and obtained surveillance footage that showed Ukena screwing with the drink. Subsequent tests revealed the drugs in the officer's beverage.

Ukena was charged with felony surreptitious administration of a controlled substance. As of this writing, he continues to maintain his innocence.

DEA Compares Pot Grows to Meth Houses

As its recent refusal to reschedule cannabis proves once again (see page 26), the DEA has never had any qualms about lying to the American public. In keeping with that tradition, the DEA's Denver division sought to whip up some old-fashioned *Reefer Madness*-style hysteria with a report that characterized Colorado grow ops as "the new meth houses."

How are two such ridiculously dissimilar things similar? According to the DEA, cannabis grows may be responsible for "strong odors, excessive noise... blown electrical transformers and heavy traffic." By comparison, meth houses come with toxic fumes, deadly explosions and dangerous criminals.

The report goes on to forecast an ominous outcome for Colorado's legal-pot industry and, as a result, communities throughout the state.

Fortunately, most Americans now realize that the DEA has absolutely no credibility and that its fear-mongering propaganda should be universally ignored.



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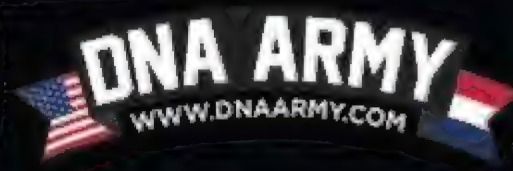
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Californians are prone to finding bliss in their own esoteric ways and Sprocket ScooterWorx is no exception. Since the 2015 harvest, Sprocket has been sharing their homegrown, as in Made in the USA, 'transpo' alternative with movers and shakers—and growers—up and down the West Coast. The Sprocket is incredibly easy to ride, plugs into any wall outlet, and it can go over 25 miles per charge. Best of all, it's a zero emissions vehicle, and it uses no oil or gas. It is incredibly quiet, and is capable of tackling all types of terrain.

"It's how me and my supplies get around. It's part pack mule,

part security vehicle, and it's a ton of fun to ride," says Tony, an off-grid farmer who charges his scooter via solar in Sonoma County. Steve, who grows in Garberville, says, "It's the fastest way to get anywhere within a mile of the house, hands down."

The groovy people at Sprocket have put a lot of time and energy into creating a smart, buttoned-up ride, but they assured us that no shoes or shirt are required. Just hop on and go! The next time you forget something in the garden shed, you'll be glad that you did. **Learn more at www.sprocketscooters.com or call (415) 342-7856.**

Wow Candles

"Wow!" is right: These medicated topical-massage candles are made with the world's finest organic coconut oil, organic palm wax and essential oil blends, and they're infused with a whole gram (yes, 1,000 mg!) of premium cannabis concentrate. The heat from lighting a candle activates the THC within... and once the candle melts, you can smooth its warm, soothing oil onto your skin for therapeutic massage, pain management, menstruation pain, migraines and burn treatment. Wow Candles come in several fragrant blends, including blood orange (hybrid), lavender jasmine (*indica*), grapefruit açai (*sativa*) and white-tea ginger (CBD). Stop by the next time you're in LA to pick up a true topical treat. **For availability and ordering information, visit wow-candles.com.**



SPOTLIGHT

Hemp Eyewear

Hemp is cropping up everywhere these days: in clothes, cars, food, pet treats—and now you can buy your very own pair of hemp sunglasses. Product designer Sam Whitten came up with the prototype for Hemp Eyewear when he realized just how amazingly versatile hemp is and decided to create a fully sustainable alternative to plastic frames. "Plastic pollution is an extremely worrying and shocking problem, especially in our oceans," Whitten says. "It's up to designers to use sustainable alternatives. Hemp is the most renewable resource available."

Each pair of the shades (handcrafted in Edinburgh, Scotland) is one-of-a-kind due to their varying hemp-fiber patterns. Springy hinges ensure a snug unisex fit, and polarized lenses offer full UV protection. They're easy on the eyes—and on the earth! **Prices vary; hempeyewear.com**

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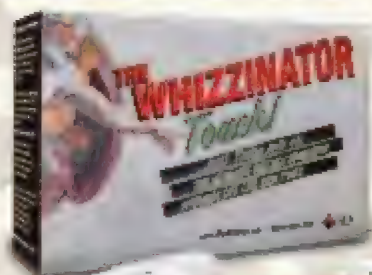
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Cannabis-infused lotions, creams and balms are cornering a growing part of the legal marijuana market, harnessing the healing herb to treat aches, pains and many other ailments without any psychoactive effects. Here are some of our favorite topicals.

Lord Jones

This California company is attracting notice for its beautifully designed packaging and meticulously crafted edibles, including some of the best low-dose gummies and chocolates we've encountered. Now it's branching out with two versions of Pain and Wellness Body Lotion—in 5:1 or 1:1 CBD-to-THC ratios. The rich, soothing lotion penetrates skin readily, leaving no trace of greasiness behind. The only thing that lingers is a fresh scent with notes of sage, mint and green citrus, and a delightful cooling sensation. Wonderful for sore muscles, joints and skin conditions. lordjones.com

Apothecanna

Perennial favorite Apothecanna has achieved success with balanced, natural formulations to treat pain while soothing the soul. Organic and wild-crafted essential oils are sourced from their native regions around the world, and all formulations are developed by (and tested on) company workers. Natural cannabis-infused therapeutic treatments include effective, fast-acting Pain Creme and Pain Spray—also available in Extra Strength—as well as deliciously-scented Calming Creme, Stimulating Creme and Everyday Creme. And the sleek, modern packaging looks great in the medicine cabinet. apothecanna.com

Prana

The Prana Massage & Body Essential Collection



is designed to provide relief with a combination of cannabis oil and holistic aromatherapy. Prana products are created using naturally derived plant fats to infuse whole-plant cannabis with essential oils including arnica, sweet almond, lavender, eucalyptus and more. The winning combination of aromatic oils and cannabinoids results in topicals that are effective as massage oil, sensual aids, or pure roll-on relief for whenever you need it. actnowprogram.com

Kush Creams

Kush Creams uses emu oil in its topicals, harnessing its penetrating power to deliver rich cannabis medication straight to the epidermal layer—unlike some balms that coat the skin but don't sink

in. The fast-absorbing topicals treat all sorts of skin conditions and joint ailments—and because the emu oil ensures that the medicine really soaks into your skin, you can reapply often for added dosage. Products include a luxurious face and eye cream, skin cream, and shampoo and conditioner (especially recommended for those undergoing chemotherapy treatments). kushcreams.com

Whoopi & Maya

Whoopi Goldberg made waves this year when she teamed up with Maya Elisabeth of OM Edibles to create a line of products especially for women. Designed to treat menstrual pain and discomfort, the line includes Rub, a gloriously scented cannabis-infused balm to

soothe your aching belly or back, and Soak, an Epsom salt bath product that eases aches and pains with therapeutic cannabis oils and warm fragrance. Whoopi & Maya's Savor, an edible made with raw cacao (available in THC or CBD-rich versions), can be sipped as a drink or eaten as a chocolate treat to add to the healing goodness (note: Savor does have a psychoactive effect). whoopiandmaya.com

Honey Pot

This California company has attracted plenty of notice with its Bear Balm and Bear Butter, available in regular and CBD-rich formulations. Honey Pot products come from a California family-operated medical marijuana collective, and its products are designed especially to appeal to

first-time users, seniors and female patients. With its winning packaging, simple list of top-notch ingredients and care put into every handcrafted batch, Honey Pot topicals are a natural choice to treat all sorts of aches and skin conditions. honeypotbear420.com

Cannabis Basics

This Washington company has been breaking new ground since its inception more than 20 years ago. Topicals maven Ah Warner works tirelessly to enhance personal health and wellness with her herbal therapies, which use organic hempseed oil and premium cannabis flower. The expansive line of products includes healing bath soaks, oils, lotions, scrubs and more, designed to treat pain, skin conditions and many other ailments. A Cannabis Basics bath soak is a sweet-smelling relief from stress and pain... step into the warmth, and let your cares float away. cannabisbasics.com

Sutra Sensuals

With names like Arouse and Touch, the Sutra Sensuals line makes its objective very clear—moisturize and nourish the skin while connecting with your partner. The ultra-soothing products contain coconut, apricot seed, orange, pomegranate and cannabis oils to soothe and heal muscles and joints... and the silky smooth Arouse is intended for intimate use as a sexual stimulant. Just warm the serum between your fingertips, and apply. sutrasensuals.com ✨

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Hip-Hop Hybridations

Vritra's soulful sonic stewpot. *Story by John Payne*

When Hal Williams, a.k.a. Vritra, started work on his new album *Yellowing*, he had one thing in mind: This one has *got* to be different. And he got what he wanted. As for whether or not it's the real hip-hop deal, he figured: Hell, it hardly matters in the end what anyone calls this soulful stewpot of drum-and-bass, hip-hop and jazz.

Originally from Louisiana, later splitting time between Illinois and Georgia, producer/composer/singer/multi-instrumentalist Vritra early on discovered “difference” masters like Neptunes, the first true indie R&B band. It was the way their stuff was produced and represented that impacted young Hal: “I said, ‘Okay, this

is cool. I haven’t seen this in rap—anybody who looks like me trying to do anything remotely different from what people expect.”

In high school, the skateboard- and music-obsessed Williams, billing himself as Pyramid Vritra, founded the hip-hop collective NRK (Nobody Really Knows) and hooked up with Matt Martians of the Odd Future crew after the latter heard NRK’s tracks on MySpace. The pair founded the Super 3 production group, teaming as the Jet Age of Tomorrow for the release of their music via Odd Future.

A bit down the road, Vritra decided to head out to LA to see what he could get going in Cali. After signing with

Peanut Butter Wolf’s primo indie hip-hop label Stone’s Throw, he released the multi-mooded, wickedly odd-beated full-length *Indra* in 2014.

His latest, *Yellowing*, keeps sucking you back in precisely because it doesn’t just present itself to you on a silver platter. Weaving in singing raps about what’s going on in his community and society, Vritra produces supremely resonant textural minefields using broken-jazz drum sequencing

“I normally only smoke *sativa*, which gets me in the right mood and right mindset.”

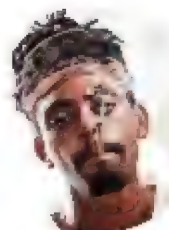
and choicely head-turning chord progressions. About 99 percent self-played and self-produced (“Gypsy” was produced by Tyler Major, and “TWLV WKS” by Lance Neptune), the album is a treasure box of tracks like “Fleeting Youth and Soundwave,” “Question & Demand” and “Renee”—deeply emotional sonic landscapes superbly and richly untethered by hip-hop’s current stylistic straitjacket.

“It’s important to have a sound and a style that’s your own,” Vritra says. “I want to show that I’m really giving everything that I’ve got on these songs. Hopefully, it’ll inspire people to do different things.”

At home or in the studio, Vritra likes to inspire himself with a nice roll of cannabis, which he calls a trusty helper in his creative process.

“I normally only smoke *sativa*, which gets me in the right mood and right mindset where I’m open enough for the ideas to come to me,” he says. “When I’m producing a song, I’ll smoke before the session—or when I’m sketching out the material. Nine times out of 10, it really helps me focus.”

Different strokes for different folks: For Vritra, edibles are best left unconsumed. “I’ll just go to sleep if I do edibles, and that’s not cool,” he says. “But smoking’s different, for some reason—I’ll be nervous before a lot of things and then I’ll smoke, and it just calms me down completely.” ✨



Solo Sessions

“Everything in the music business has just led in the direction of formula. When I listen to music from the ‘60s, ‘70s and ‘80s, most everyone had their own sound. You could tell an artist apart, and you could tell that they really put their soul into it.”



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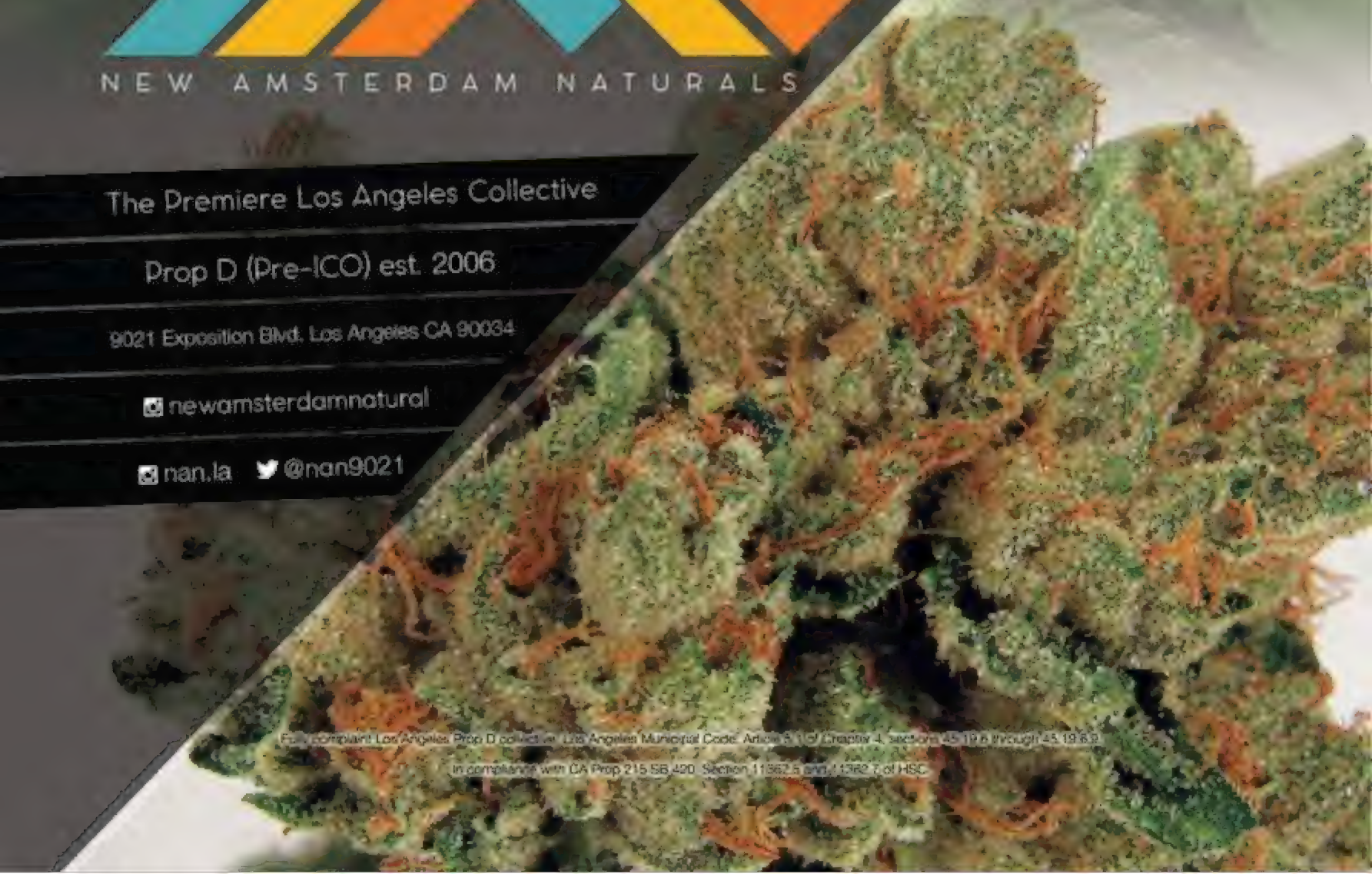
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"There's a huge industry that's blown up, and a ton of tax money has come in. It's like a new frontier."

Dominic and Jeremy promise peace, positivity and outting.

Firing It Up

Big Gigantic prove that two is the magic number with their brand-new album, *A Brighter Future*, and their thrilling live shows. *By Mary Jane Gibson*

Livetronica hip-hop act Big Gigantic is made up of just two musicians, but the duo embody Aristotle's concept that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Their live shows are hyper-trippy, high-energy, psychedelic visual spectacles, underscored with hot saxophone riffs and beats that reach deep into your body as the room achieves liftoff. The transcendent, shared exhilaration of the crowd is truly gigantic.

We caught up with saxophonist/producer Dominic Lalli and drummer Jeremy Salken in the Canna-Bus, a hemp-adorned private lounge for super-VIPs at the NorCal Cannabis Cup.

Lalli grew up in Las Vegas, Salken in Virginia, but they've both lived in Colorado for the last 10-plus years. Salken

attests to how fantastic life in the Rocky Mountain State has become with the arrival of legal weed, saying: "It's been awesome. There's a huge industry that's blown up, and a ton of tax money has come in. We had something like a \$40-million-plus surplus in tax money for schools and, hopefully, music and the arts. It's like a new frontier."

The guys' love for music—and the world around them—is reflected in the Lil G's, a group of Big Gigantic superfans dedicated to "enhancing the fan experience" at live shows by keeping the good vibes flowing and spreading peace and positivity—a perfect fit with love of the herb.

Lalli, who describes himself as an "avid weed fan," says he loves to smoke when creating beats: "It really gets me in the

I'm making music. Sometimes I like to dedicate the songs to that very idea."

Salken, on the other hand, is an edibles enthusiast. "It's really exciting what's going on," he says. "There are these sprays you can get—it's like a Binaca weed spray. Just a couple sprays under the tongue and then all of a sudden you're like, 'Yeah, I feel good.' And I can go to the bank or go fucking whatever." That's why he prefers it to toking: "I puff during the day, it's over—I just want to clean my house or watch TV all day."

Even as the weed scene thrives, the music scene in Colorado is exploding. "Colorado fans have always been super-dedicated and passionate about music," Salken notes. "We have a lot of great

atre being one of them. It's just cool to see people really love what we're doing." The one drawback? "Now there's too many freakin' people in Denver," he laughs. "It's pretty much because of weed."

As the guys head back to the Cow Palace to play for a crowd of happy stoners on this solstice summer evening, we have one final question: When's their favorite time to burn one down? "All day, every day!" Lalli offers. Then he adds, "Whenever the first one of the day is, whatever time that comes. Could be first thing in the morning, could be after breakfast, maybe at 4:20—but that first one is *the one*."

Agreed—there's nothing like the first time. ✨

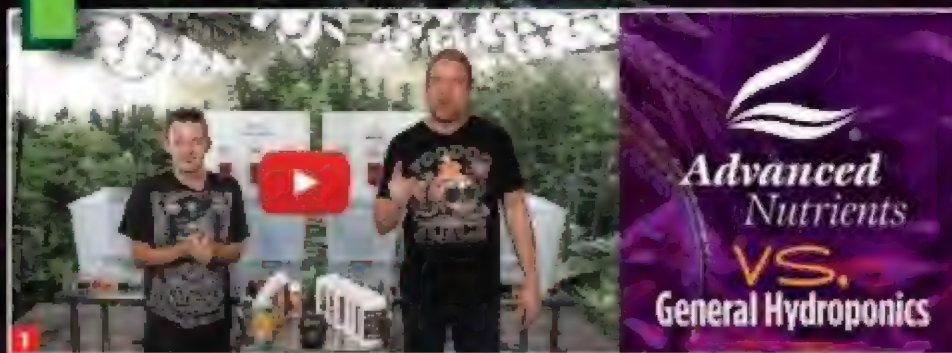
Visit biggigantic.net.



Cookies and Dream

The guys have their own strain in the works at the Denver dispensary Native Roots—a *sativa*-dominant hybrid of Blue Dream and Girl Scout Cookies. "It's citrus- and pine-smelling and tastes great," Lalli says. "Man, I'm super-happy about it."

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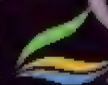
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Eat These Peaches!

A crateful of riches from the Allman Brothers.

Duane Allman was a slide guitarist of unequalled power, and yet a master of understatement—he could tell a story in one bent note. The Allman Brothers Band were his creation, blending sophisticated instrumental prowess and raw feel, and his blood brother—vocalist and keyboard player Gregg Allman—remains one of the finest blues singers of his generation. The original ABB were Georgia hippie rockers who combined Chicago blues, modal jazz, country-and-western swing and twin guitars. They begat Southern rock and were granddaddies of the jamband scene. The ABB's logo is a hallucinogenic mushroom—they were experts in taking their audience on an epic trip through the peaks and valleys, and fans often appropriately augmented the experience.



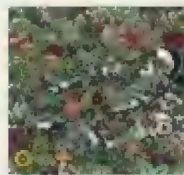
The Allman Brothers Band Vinyl Crate
The Allman Brothers Band
(Mercury/UMe)

This actual peach crate (peaches are the Georgia state fruit) contains nine remastered LPs spanning 1969 to '79, leaving room for additional vinyl of one's choice. The sound is pristine, plus as many *High Times* readers know, gatefold covers are superior joint-rolling platforms. Extra swag includes

posters, guitar picks, buttons and a USB stick for downloads. (The LPs are also available separately and for download.)

After Duane's premature death in 1971, the Brothers soldiered on and continued to release sublime music, including the hit single "Ramblin' Man." The Allmans burned brightest in performance, and half the music here is live, including *At Fillmore East*, often crowned the greatest rock-concert record of 'em all. Remastered, it sounds even better than it did upon release in '71, and it's housed in what is the ultimate gift for the dedicated Allmans fan. *Michael Simmons*

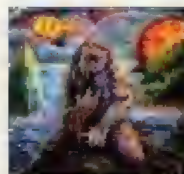
MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS



Oozing Wound
Whatever Forever
(Thrill Jockey)

Despite its throwback-'90s DGAF-sounding title, if this album were a man, he'd probably be singlehandedly chainsawing the Antarctic Peninsula free of the South Pole right now. The band's penchant for pure noise occasionally bleeds through, as in the nausea-inducing intro to "Mercury in

Retrograde," but really, this is straight-up prog-influenced thrash performed by insane virtuosos whose fucked-up time signatures and howling guitars writhe with controlled brutality and glorious speed. I woulda bought this just for the smile that 0:36–0:42 in "Diver" puts on my face. *Polly Watson*



Eerie
Eerie
(Tee Pee)

Like some sort of undead heavy-metal Justice League, *Eerie* rises from the dank alleys of Oakland (and Brattleboro, Vermont!) to drink blood, chew brains and bark at the moon. Led by famed Bay Area tattoo artist Tim Lehi, *Eerie* features members of underground favorites Witch, Alaric and

Futur Skullz (RIP), who cook up an infectious, horror-themed stew of savage riffery and howling vocals on epic cuts like "Master of Creation," "Yeti" and "Hideous Serpent." Powerfully delivered and eminently satisfying, *Eerie* is high in the running for metal album of the year. *J. Bennett*

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



How to Talk Dirty & Influence People
Lenny Bruce
(Da Capo Press)

In the late Lenny Bruce's autobiography, he recounts his 1962 trial and near-imprisonment for saying the word "cocksucker" onstage. The context of the term is genuinely witty, not gratuitously shocking. What is shocking is Bruce's relentless harassment by law enforcement, which was

determined to punish the comedian for his mocking of a hypocritical society. Bruce notes that "no form of cannabis *sativa*...harms the organs," whereas booze is "toxic" and legal. That was a subversive statement back when this classic was first published in 1965. Lenny said it first. *Michael Simmons*

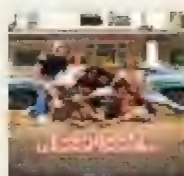
DVD RECOMMENDATIONS



Horace and Pete
Louis CK
(Pig Newton, Inc.)

Horace and Pete is like watching Samuel Beckett dry-fuck a Norman Lear sitcom. By self-distributing, Louis CK defies convention to write, direct and star in a show that's demanding, intense and often difficult to watch. It's also the best thing you'll see this year. Set in a 100-year-old Brooklyn

bar, the complicated narrative tackles family discord, relationship woes and mental illness in a darkly comic fashion. Its random episode lengths and clunky three-camera style mean that it's not an obvious choice for streaming services, so give Louis your money and count yourself lucky. *Fritz Meier*



Everybody Wants Some!!
Richard Linklater
(Paramount)

Richard Linklater's "spiritual sequel" to his beloved film *Dazed and Confused* is a sports comedy with more competitive drinking than game time on the field. Freshman hijinks ensue in a 1980s Texas college baseball team's frat house, where intense nostalgia and male bonding reign

supreme. The team cruises chicks and parties hard before classes start. Their pitcher rips bong, gets philosophical about Brian Eno and barely ever throws a ball. *Everybody Wants Some!!* delights with the ball-busting charm of a frat-house kegger and Linklater's slacker style. *Ira Gamerman*

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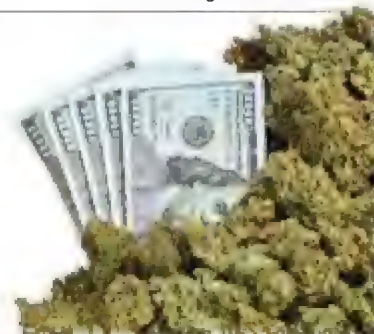
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Cannabusiness Analytics

How data startups are improving marijuana sales.



THANKS TO EMERGING point-of-sale (POS) technology for cannabis retailers, dispensaries in medical marijuana and recreational states will soon operate as seamlessly as your average convenience store.

From business-to-business data companies like BDS Analytics, to retail and consumer-facing firms like Greenbits, these new startups are helping dispensaries and retailers quickly access data regarding everything from product inventory to the best-selling strains. However, since cannabusiness regulations vary from state to state and the overall legal market is still in its infancy, tech companies that track marijuana POS data are not “one size fits all.”

For instance, one of the newest startups entering the market is Baker, a company that helps people locate their favorite strains quickly and easily and provides dispensaries with POS technology, a breakdown of anonymized sales stats and assistance with building customer loyalty.

The Denver-based firm works with more than 100 dispensaries and is set to receive a \$1.6 million round of funding later this month, according to Baker CEO and co-founder Joel Milton. Baker's clients use the service to present customers with deals on their favorite products and to match their inventory with people seeking a specific strain.

“Part of what we’re trying to do is change the shopping experience, the way Amazon personalized recommendations that feel very comfortable,” Milton says. “There’s still a lot of people who haven’t experienced that yet, and I think part of the reason is the lack of technology that helps get this industry where it can be.”

Even so, the data these companies collect depend largely on the businesses they’re serving. Though Baker helps consumers locate favorite strains and helps dispensaries take a big-picture look at their business, the startup doesn’t address the compliance aspect of product tracking. That’s where a competitor like Greenbits comes in.



Customized data analysis is becoming the new norm in the cannabis space, pushing pot businesses to new highs.

Greenbits, a San Jose-based POS-data startup serving more than 250 dispensaries, also provides its clients with a breakdown of store statistics. Though the company doesn’t offer an app for marijuana consumers, it does track products to help dispensaries stay compliant with state laws. Greenbits’s software traces and reports product and sale information directly to authorities, and it also prevents dispensaries from selling to underage buyers, says Ben Curren, the company’s founder and CEO.

Because laws and technology vary from state to state, Greenbits has had to develop technological solutions for clients in states whose systems aren’t easily integrated, Curren adds. These legal nuances affect where and how Greenbits sells its products.

“It’s kind of like going international,” Curren explains. “In Washington, when the government started seed-to-sale tracking, the software had an API [application program interface], which allows

us to automate traceability data for businesses... In Colorado, the software system doesn’t have an API, so there’s no way to integrate with the state.”

Other firms are also stepping in to take the pulse of the industry, focusing more on business-to-business needs than consumer operations. BDS Analytics is a Boulder, Colorado-based firm, founded in 2015, that specializes in marijuana retail data, market research and consulting services. It collects and anonymizes consumer information for individual dispensaries and also gathers market-share data to determine where brands stand in the marketplace.

BDS Analytics doesn’t have a consumer app, nor does it assist dispensaries with day-to-day operations or regulatory compliance. But the data it provides help dispensaries determine the size of their market share, as well as to assess how well certain strains and products are selling—information which is useful to growers and brands, says Tom Jones, BDS’s director of analytics.

The availability of this data is common in other industries, but until recently there were no firms providing such information for the cannabis sector, says Taylor West, deputy director of the National Cannabis Industry Association. This data can be crucial for pricing products, assessing demand and determining what to offer in stores.

At the same time, it’s important to ensure that the data collected and processed by these companies is secure, West adds, both to protect consumers and to avoid sharing proprietary information with competitors. But building the necessary relationships with business owners to collect such data is “not an overnight process.”

“The more established dispensaries have been using their own data for a long time to make decisions,” West points out. “But it’s definitely an area that you’re seeing more businesses getting into, recognizing that a tremendous amount of information can be gleaned from this data.” 🌿

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MARKET ANALYSIS

Prices by the ounce

All indices, with the exception of the Schwag Index, finished December below their previous month's average. The Mids Index experienced the biggest drop, falling \$28 in December. The US Price also took a big hit this month, dropping \$27 to an average price of \$301 per ounce—its lowest average since March (nine months).

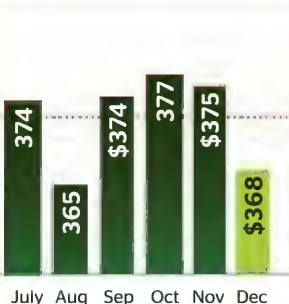
US Price Index

YTD Average: \$312



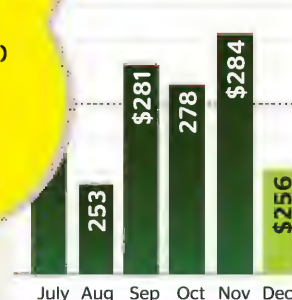
Kind Index

YTD Average: \$373



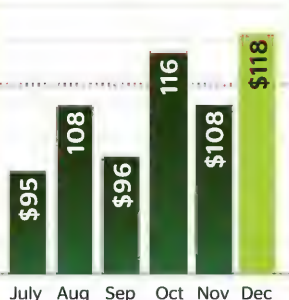
Mids Index

YTD Average: \$269



Schwag Index

YTD Average: \$111



(Skywalker OG)
"Great crop
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is fantastic!"
—Hoboken, NJ

TRANS HIGH MARKET QUOTATIONS

STATE	CITY	STRAIN	PRICE
Arkansas	Phoenix	Blue Dream	\$250
California	Crescent City	Candyland	140
	San Fernando Valley	Green Goblin	260
Colorado	Denver	Deadhead OG	260
	Pueblo	Golden Goat	250
Connecticut	Hartford	Sweet Tooth	350
Delaware	Newark	Blue Dream	320
Florida	Coconut Creek	Master Kush	300
	Tampa	Green Crack	200
Georgia	Atlanta	Bubba Kush	350
Hawaii	Maui	JillyBean	360
Illinois	Chicago	Cheese	340
Indiana	Indianapolis	Headband	360
Louisiana	New Orleans	Sensi Star	400
Maine	Gorham	Blue Dream	200
	Portland	Vortex	250
Maryland	Baltimore	Sour Diesel	350
Massachusetts	Boston	Tahoe OG	360
Michigan	Detroit	Blueberry	380
Minnesota	St. Paul	Star Dawg	375
Mississippi	Oxford	Blue Dream	360
Montana	Helena	Trainwreck	250
Nevada	Las Vegas	OG Kush	380
New Jersey	Hoboken	Skywalker OG	375
New York	Brooklyn	Strawberry Cough	380
North Carolina	Raleigh	Purple Haze	350
Ohio	Columbus	White Widow	360
Oregon	Portland	Space Bomb	200
Pennsylvania	Pittsburgh	Cherry Pie	250
Tennessee	Nashville	Silver Haze	380
Texas	Lubbock	Girl Scout Cookies	350
Utah	Salt Lake City	Northern Lights	350
Vermont	Burlington	Skywalker OG	360
Virginia	Richmond	Master Kush	360
Washington	Seattle	Chemdog	280
Wisconsin	Madison	Mr. Nice Guy	275
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Costa Rica	San Jose	Purple Kush	\$160
United Kingdom	Birmingham	Cheese	£200

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After the shootout, Leonard Peltier fled to Canada where he was arrested in February 1976.



A Warrior Behind Bars

In the final months of his presidency, Barack Obama can correct one of America's worst miscarriages of justice by freeing Leonard Peltier, the Native American activist who has been wrongly imprisoned for almost 40 years for the murder of two FBI agents. *High Times* visits Peltier in prison and reviews the outrageous history of his case. *By Malcolm MacKinnon*

July 4, 2016: USP Coleman I, Florida

I'm sitting in the visitors' waiting room of the high-security federal prison in Coleman, Florida. Groups of women and their children are scattered around the room. The kids color with crayons and paper provided by the institution. The moms wait patiently, veterans of the unhappy routine of entering prison to visit the men in their lives.

I'm here to see Leonard Peltier, who is far from his North Dakota homeland. An Anishinabe-Lakota American Indian,

Peltier has spent nearly 40 years behind bars. How he got here is one of the most shameful chapters in US history—and it's not over yet.

Accompanying me are Kari Ann Peltier and Jean Roach. Kari Ann is Leonard's niece and helps run his defense committee. Jean's relationship to Leonard is special: She was there on the day in June 1975 that two FBI agents were killed during a horrific shootout on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in Oglala, South Dakota—the beginning of Peltier's long, troubled journey.



June 26, 1975: Oglala, South Dakota

Yesterday, June 25, was the 99th anniversary of the Battle of the Little Bighorn, when General George Armstrong Custer and his cavalry were wiped out after attacking an Indian village. However, the victory marked the beginning of the end for the Plains Tribes and their freedom. The US government engaged in a scorched-earth campaign to wipe out the remaining Native resistance to the encroachment of white settlers. A year later, the great leader Crazy Horse surrendered, and the subjugation of the Lakota and the other Plains Tribes began in earnest.

In later years, June 25 would be declared a tribal holiday, but it wasn't celebrated yesterday. A virtual state of war exists these days on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, the homeland of the Oglala Lakota, an area that encompasses 3,500 square miles, with a population of about 12,000.

Perhaps it was inevitable; the scars run deep here. The Wounded Knee massacre of 1890 happened on Pine Ridge. As many as 300 Indians were gunned down in the dead of winter; half of the victims were women and children.

In 1975, the past has become the present. Nationwide, tribal identity is being proudly reclaimed, and protests against the ruinous federal policies that have shattered tribal life and resulted in widespread poverty are mounting. The American Indian Movement (AIM), which took root in the late 1960s, has been the catalyst for this change, with a new generation of warriors—male and female—vowing to regain their sovereignty.

But what is a warrior? Essentially, it's someone prepared to defend one's own people from harm. A warrior is a protector. And today, Leonard Peltier is here on Pine Ridge.

The gunfire erupted just before noon on that late-June day in 1975. At the time, Jean was 14. She'd been camping with about 30 others on the land of Calvin Jumping Bull in Oglala, a small village on the Pine Ridge reservation. The ranch and farm included four residences where families lived, all situated on the flatlands below the bluffs where Highway 18 runs.

Calvin Jumping Bull had reached out to AIM for protection. By the early 1970s, the reservation had become a hotbed of intertribal warfare. In 1973, AIM activists had taken over the village of Wounded Knee for 71 days, drawing international media attention to the plight of Indians in the United States and exposing the corruption of tribal chairman Richard Wilson on the Pine Ridge reservation. The defiance displayed during the occupation of Wounded Knee inspired Indians across America, but in the ensuing two years, the conditions at Pine Ridge only got worse.

Wilson was determined to hang on to power. He'd been accused of favoring friends and family with jobs and

What is a warrior? Essentially, it's someone prepared to defend one's own people from harm.

intimidating political opponents. Wilson employed a private militia, the so-called GOON (Guardians of the Oglala Nation), to terrorize the opposition. "Traditionals"—those who embraced their Native identity and demanded change—were his primary detractors. They distrusted the US Bureau of Indian Affairs, which backed Wilson, and denounced federal programs.

But speaking out came with a terrible price. The traditionals were targeted by Wilson's GOON squads. Shootings became commonplace, and the murder rate on the reservation soared to become the highest in the US. A heavy FBI presence had also descended on the reservation, determined that another Wounded Knee-style standoff would never occur again. The Feds deemed AIM to be as dangerous as the Black Panthers or the Weather Underground. AIM members were being tracked relentlessly. Pine

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Ridge was on edge.

The level of anxiety throughout the reservation necessitated extraordinary measures of protection. AIM had responded to that call, but the fact is that most of the people camping in tents by the creek that morning were young people in their teens. They were preparing for a local Sun Dance and handling security—and, yes, they were armed.

July 4, 2016: USP Coleman I, Florida

"I was scared, but probably not as scared as I should have been," Jean Roach tells me. "I'd heard shooting before. So when it started, I wasn't all that surprised—I just ran."

Jean, Kari Ann and I move through the prison checkpoints and are escorted to the meeting area for inmates and their visitors. No pencils, pens or paper are allowed here. No recording equipment either, but I don't mind—it makes the conversation more informal.

Leonard arrives in a line of prisoners who have visitors scheduled for today. They're all clad in yellow jumpsuits. After the guards grant permission, he moves across the room quickly and gives me a hug. Leonard is all smiles. We've exchanged letters for years, but I'm

"The news called it the Jumping Bull 'compound.' Compound! Like we were a paramilitary group."

unprepared for the warmth of his greeting and his level of energy.

At 72, Leonard has his share of health problems: prostate issues, diabetes, complications with his jaw from a childhood bout with tetanus. Most troubling is an abdominal aortic aneurism, a serious condition that requires surgery—if it bursts, he'll die. Concerns over the state of his health have led to increased calls for a presidential pardon, which is why I'm here. Leonard seems genuinely pleased that *High Times* is joining the push for his clemency. But I'm the one who feels honored.

During nearly four decades of imprisonment, Leonard Peltier has become a formidable activist and the world's most famous Native American. His work on behalf of indigenous people throughout North America—including health-care

delivery on reservations, emergency food drives, and the advocacy of peaceful resolutions between tribes at odds with each other—has earned him a number of awards for humanitarian work, including four nominations for the Nobel Peace Prize.

But his achievements are overshadowed by what happened in Oglala on that summer morning 41 years ago—an event that placed him at the center of a centuries-old maelstrom spawned by the trail of Indian treaties broken by the United States and its role in cultural genocide.

"They told so many lies about the people who were there that day," Leonard says with a laugh. "The news called it the Jumping Bull 'compound.' Compound! Like we were a paramilitary group."

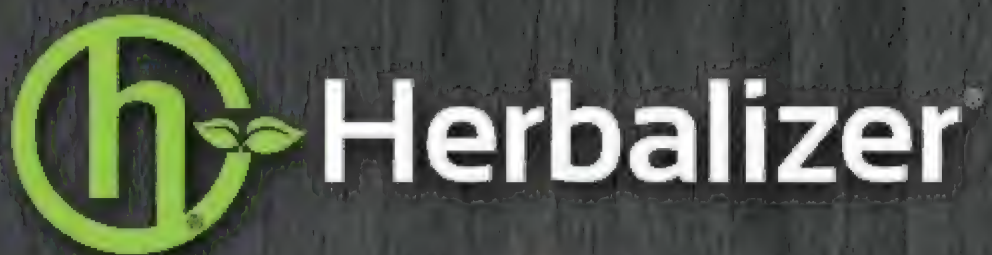
June 26, 1975: Oglala, South Dakota

It's about 11 a.m. In separate cars, two FBI agents, Jack Coler and Ronald Williams, tail a red pickup truck on Highway 18 in Oglala. They believe the driver is a young man named Jimmy Eagle, who is wanted for questioning in the theft of a pair of cowboy boots.

The pickup suddenly veers off the road and speeds down the hill onto

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the Jumping Bull property. The agents decide to pursue it. Then the truck comes to an abrupt halt. The agents stop too, and a gun battle breaks out.

Peltier's camp is about a quarter-mile from the Jumping Bull houses, situated along the creek. "We had no idea who they were," Leonard recalls now regarding the FBI agents. "We heard the firing, grabbed our rifles and took off running."

It has never been clear who shot first, but at the end of the firefight, Coler and Williams lie dead, shot at close range after being seriously wounded. The tragedy is the direct result of the climate of fear pervading Pine Ridge: The Indians believe that the occupants of the two cars have arrived to kill them. The FBI agents' cars are unmarked, and they never identified themselves.

However, Williams was in radio contact with a local dispatch as the two agents pursued the pickup, and followed that up with a call for help once they came under fire. In no time, the Feds respond in multiple cars. A new gun battle erupts, and a young Indian, Joe Stuntz, is killed. But despite the subsequent massive mobilization of law enforcement to capture the Indians involved in the shootout, they manage to escape.

In later years, the prosecutors have admitted that they can't state with any certainty who fired the fatal shots.

July 4, 2016: USP Coleman I, Florida

Peltier is serving two consecutive life sentences for the murder of Coler and Williams. But the details of his trial—in which the government clearly manipulated evidence and coerced witnesses—demonstrate an appalling perversion of the justice system.

In the wake of the uproar over the agents' deaths, Peltier fled to Canada. Two other Indians present at the shootout were later apprehended: Bob Robideau and Dino Butler. They stood trial in 1977, charged with aiding and abetting the murder of Coler and Williams, but were acquitted on the grounds of self-defense.

Peltier was arrested in Canada in February 1976 and extradited to the US later that year. The Feds, who were stunned by their failure to secure convictions in the trial of Robideau and Butler, were dead-set on making someone from AIM pay for the murders. According to an internal memo released after the trial, the FBI and prosecutors agreed to use the "full prosecutive weight of the federal government" to nail Leonard Peltier.

The trial took place in 1977. The judge ruled that Leonard couldn't use the self-defense arguments made by Robideau and Butler. He also ruled that testimony about Dick Wilson's GOON squads and the violence at Pine Ridge was inadmissible. Important ballistics evidence was withheld from the defense. Additionally, the red pickup truck that the agents had chased onto the Jumping Bull property now became a "red and white van," which conveniently matched the vehicle that Peltier drove.

There was no eyewitness testimony that Leonard shot the FBI agents. There was no eyewitness testimony that even placed him at the scene before the murders happened. The Leonard Peltier Defense Committee has been demanding a re-examination of the case for decades.

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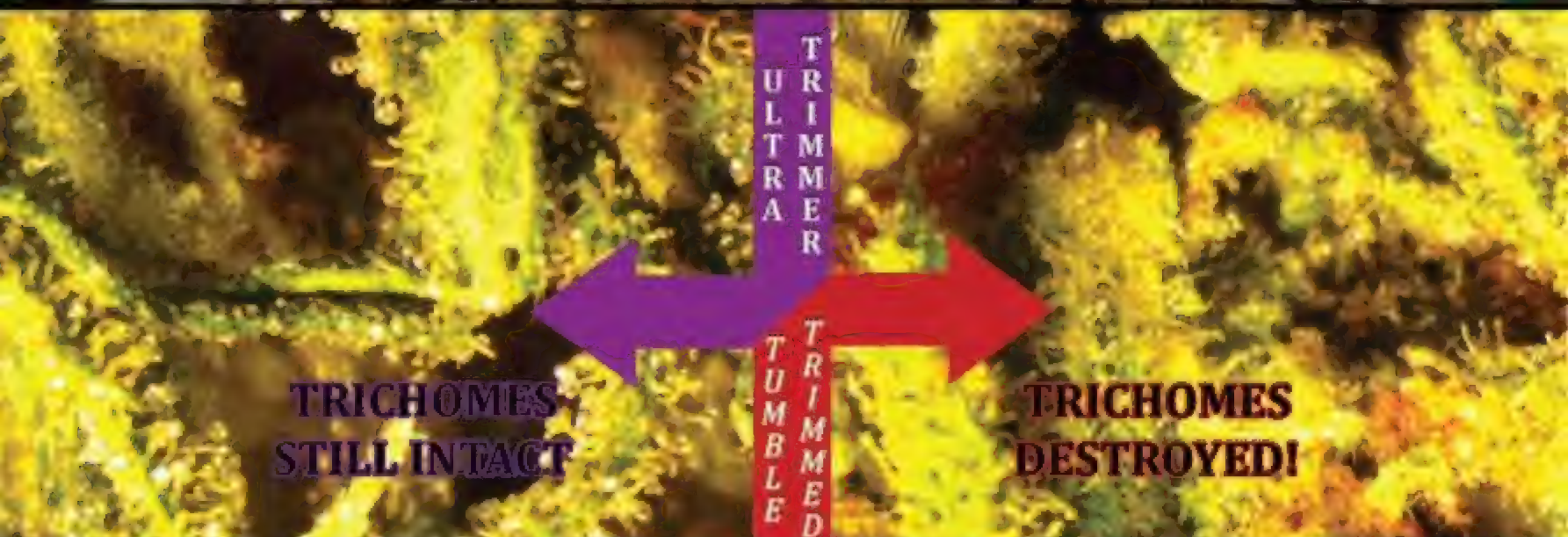
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A 1999 letter to the members of Congress states angrily: “The only evidence against Mr. Peltier is the fact that he was present at the Jumping Bull ranch during the fatal shootout. There were [many] others there that day as well. Yet Mr. Peltier is the only one who was ever sentenced and imprisoned. The FBI and other officials clearly singled out Leonard Peltier as a scapegoat, and forced him to pay the collective price for the killings, which occurred despite the lack of evidence against him. Personalized vengeance of this kind in US officials cannot be tolerated.”

Over the course of his long imprisonment, Leonard’s appeals have been consistently denied, despite court findings of a “clear abuse of the investigative process by the FBI.” In later years, the prosecutors have even admitted that they can’t state with any certainty who fired the fatal shots.

(Although Peltier and others present at the shootout say they know the identity of the killer, who was in the red pickup truck that day, they steadfastly refuse to name him. The shooter has said that it was not his intention to kill the agents: Both were severely wounded in the gun battle, and when he approached

the injured men, one raised his handgun in an attempt to shoot him. The shooter says he simply reacted and fired back, killing both.)

These days, Leonard’s appeals process has been exhausted. He was denied parole in 1998 and 2009, and his next scheduled parole hearing won’t happen until 2024. That means his only realistic hope for getting out of prison before he dies is a presidential pardon.

At the end of his own term in office, Bill Clinton pledged to give clemency for Leonard an “honest look-see,” but he quickly backtracked after furious protests from the FBI. Clinton did, however, pardon shady billionaire Marc Rich, who made most of his \$2 billion selling oil to the apartheid regime in South Africa when it faced a UN embargo, and whose clients also included North Korea and Libya. (The *New York Times* called it a “shocking abuse of presidential power.”) Clinton’s successor, George W. Bush, denied Leonard a pardon as well.

For years, the handling of Leonard’s case has been harshly criticized in the US and internationally. Countless world leaders have decried his treatment, and prominent humanitarian organizations have demanded justice for him.

Essentially, Leonard—who was severely beaten in prison in 2009—has become a living martyr.

Naturally, his spirits are riding a seesaw. Kari Ann tries to bolster them by making plans for a new home on the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation in North Dakota, just below the Canadian border.

In prison, Leonard has become an accomplished painter, and his artwork is highly valued. “Man, I dream of just being able to paint,” he muses. “Go to sleep when I want, get up when I want, eat when I want. Try to enjoy what’s left for me. Talk to the little children—be an elder for my people.”

“But it’s been over 40 years,” Kari Ann tells me. “Uncle worries that people might forget or get complacent. He needs the support of the people. He needs everyone’s help.” 🌸

Please visit whoisleonardpeltier.info. E-mail President Obama and your federal legislators and demand clemency. To learn more, watch the excellent film Incident at Oglala or read Peter Matthiessen’s essential book, In the Spirit of Crazy Horse. Visit hightimes.com to view Leonard’s art.

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Why Marijuana Growing Education Is a Top Priority for Advanced Nutrients

The medical marijuana industry is growing every minute. Legal marijuana is the fastest-growing industry in the U.S., and a slew of other businesses are jumping on the bandwagon as well. At present, 23 U.S. states allow medical-marijuana use, while 7 have legislation pending to issue licenses for it.

4 states and Washington, D.C. have legalized cannabis outright, while another California referendum in 2016 will allow recreational use in a state that was the first to permit medical marijuana use way back in 1996. It is estimated that medical marijuana is already a multibillion-dollar industry (without counting recreational sales).

While a great deal of information and misinformation appears daily on the Internet, novices and more advanced growers alike are always looking for a source of reliable information which can serve to improve their yields, both in terms of quality and quantity. A whole community of growers inhabit the growers' forums and are always looking to perfect their growing skills, without having to wade through hours and hours of irrelevant or misleading forum posts.

GMU is a bold step in a better direction, and by elevating the general level of education among growers, the quality of marijuana, especially as medicine, will skyrocket worldwide. This isn't just for connoisseurs. It's for children with epilepsy, as well as adults suffering from the effects of chemotherapy, chronic pain, and glaucoma. Thousands of YouTube videos help document the impressive results of therapeutic cannabis use.

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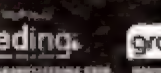
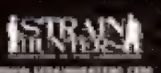
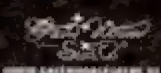
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State of Bliss

At the High Times Medical Cannabis Country Fair Cup, summer ended on a decidedly high note.

By *Samantha Nicholas*

Michigan isn't flat like, say, Kansas. Instead, the countryside rolls, rising and falling gently. The peak of Mt. Arvon, way up on the Upper Peninsula, is the state's highest elevation at nearly 2,000 feet. Still, when you drive across Michigan, you see acres of farmland and wide stretches of untouched flatland. Anyone with a rooting interest in the future of our fledgling industry could easily envision the Great Lakes State as one of America's greatest agricultural producers of cannabis and industrial hemp.

Of course, farmers grew hemp widely here in Michigan for two centuries, long before the federal government outlawed the plant in all its forms. No hemp crops grow here now.

But smokable cannabis? That's a different story. It flourishes, but certainly not without resistance. In 2008, Michigan voters approved medical marijuana in a landslide, with 63 percent in favor of the measure. A thriving industry took root, but current Attorney General Bill Schuette, elected in 2010, has used his office to harass and prosecute medical marijuana users and providers. Scores of dispensaries have been shut down and the scourge of forfeiture, relied upon by police forces to enrich themselves with the assets of those they arrest, has resulted in a growing distrust of politicians and law enforcement. The Michigan State Police is under fire for allegedly falsifying drug tests in order to bump up misdemeanors to felonies and, of course, the scandalous performance of



On Sunday night, the Cannabis Cup awards were ready for presentation.

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Glass artists heated up the Cup midway.

Governor Rick Snyder during Flint's water contamination crisis last April has spawned a disgruntled, if not angry, electorate. Amid the turmoil though, the cannabis community has strengthened. This past year, the activists of MI Legalize mounted a formidable campaign to place an initiative legalizing recreational marijuana on the November ballot. They succeeded, garnering 354,000 signatures, nearly 100,000 more than required.

But the Bureau of Elections balked, saying it would be impossible to complete a full canvass of the petitions, send the proposal to the Legislature for a required 40-day review period, and still allow enough time to ensure it appears on absentee ballots mailed out in September. (Score one for inept bureaucracy.)

MI Legalize immediately sued Secretary of State Ruth Johnson, Bureau of Elections Director Chris Thomas and the Board of State Canvassers to make sure the voice of the people is heard, promising to take the case all the way to the US Supreme Court if necessary.

It was upon this foundation that High Times mounted its second Cannabis Cup of the summer in Clio, MI, again at the Auto City Events Center. The first was in June and, as always, Michigan welcomed High Times warmly, which encouraged us to mount another event. Why not end summer on a high note with this vibrant community of Great Lakes ganja fans?

So under balmy skies (except for one 60-minute spate of rain on Day Two) the three-day Medical Cannabis Country Fair



The Martinez Studio Art Club honored military vets with this toking sand sculpture.



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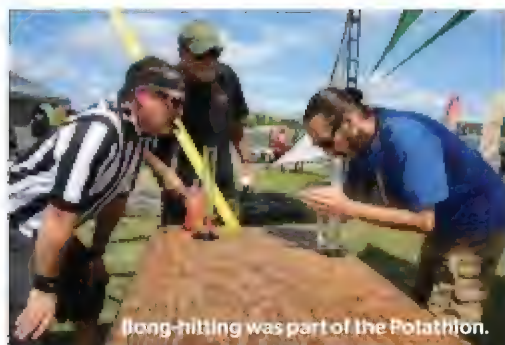


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Laith Al-Saadi, the pride of Michigan.



Shooter Jennings played new and classic country music.

Cup got underway featuring games on the midway, the Headdie Village, where local mom-'n'-pop canna-businesses set up shop. A "Potathlon" was also available for Cup-goers to compete for prizes—five events that showcased stoner skills: the High Jump, wherein stoners leaped to touch a hanging bag of pot prizes; the Obstacle Course, which required bonghitting, agility and picture-puzzle skills; creative joint-rolling; a stoner art contest wherein artists produced drawings; and a Stoner Sez contest which, just as in Simon Says, demanded the rapt attention of participants.

For the first time, country music acts were booked for a Cannabis Cup. Billy Strings and Cabinet pumped out lively bluegrass vibes on Saturday afternoon, followed by Shooter Jennings (son of country legend Waylon Jennings), who rocked the Cup with new and classic country favorites. Michigan native Laith Al-Saadi, who kicked ass on NBC's *The Voice*, took the stage on Sunday, displaying his singular virtuosity as a singer and guitarist. He also performed several duos with the legendary John Sinclair, Michigan's long-time super-activist. The hip hop crowd wasn't forgotten. Detroit's Royce 5'9" was cranking on Friday night, while reggae fans were feted with The Talking Dreads on Sunday afternoon.

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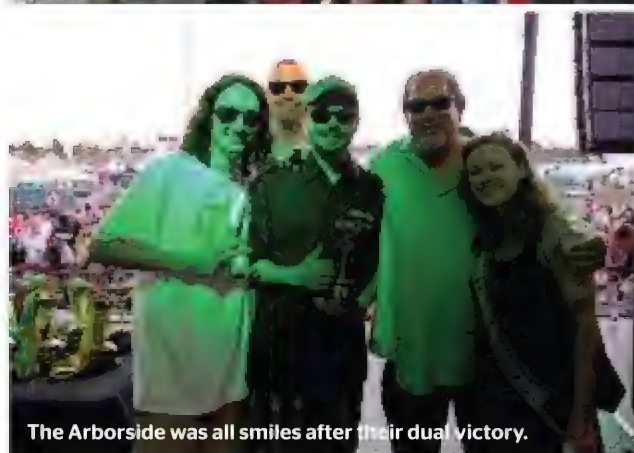
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The Arborside was all smiles after their dual victory.



Frozen Key Lime Ganja Pops won the Cup for Captain Kirk's Edibles.

But three days of sampling the finest cannabis products in the Midwest was the real attraction. Not to say all of the vendors were from the heartland. California companies were in abundance as well, competing for the coveted Cannabis Cup—and Los Angeles Kush did win two Cups for Best Booth and Best Product. Exotic Genetix of Washington State won for Best Glass and Best Non-solvent Hash.

But Michigan canna-businesses were the big winners. LightSky Farms from Traverse grabbed Cups for Best Vape Pen and Best CBD Concentrate, while the Arborside dispensary and Captain Kirk's Edibles, both of Ann Arbor, walked away with top honors. Arborside earned best CBD Edible and Best Hybrid Flower Cannabis Cups, while Captain Kirk's Frozen Key Lime Ganja Pops was tops in the Best Edible category.

Herbal Solutions of Ypsilanti, in the winner's circle consistently last June, won four more Cups for Best Topical, Best CBD Flower, Best *Indica* Flower and Best *Sativa* Concentrate.

Michigan is fertile ground for the cannabis industry. The Cannabis Cup awaits a return to Michigan next year when, hopefully, the state will have unshackled the plant and those who champion it—for good. 🌿

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Cannabis Cup Results

BEST INDICA FLOWER

- 1st Place** Purple OG
by Herbal Solutions
- 2nd Place** Wookie Cookie #2
by Bud White in collaboration with
Interlochen Alternative Health
- 3rd Place** Brainwreck
by Cannonymous Labs

BEST HYBRID FLOWER

- 1st Place** Sour OG by Arborside in
collaboration with Midnight Roots
- 2nd Place** Grease Monkey
by Clearly Grown
- 3rd Place** BlueCheese
by Mrs. Berry Kush

BEST SATIVA FLOWER

- 1st Place** T.C.'s Durban Cookies
by Oasis Medical Seeds & Herbal
Solutions Ypsilanti
- 2nd Place** Mr. Clean
by The Most High Farmer in collabora-
tion with Exotic Genetix
- 3rd Place** Liberty Haze by Buzz

BEST VAPE PEN CARTRIDGES

- 1st Place** Death Star Distillate Oil
by LightSky Farms
- 2nd Place** Skywalker OG
by LoudPack Extracts
- 3rd Place** Angel Food Cake Super Oil
by Higher Vision with Bumble Bee
Vape Pen & Safier Family Farms

BEST CBD FLOWER

- 1st Place** Cannatonic 4
by Herbal Solutions
- 2nd Place** Scandinavian Mooselodge
by LightSky Farms
- 3rd Place** Cellar CBD
by Radicle Genetics

BEST CBD CONCENTRATE

- 1st Place** CBDDee's Distillate Oil
by LightSky Farms
- 2nd Place** CBD Distillate
by Care By Design
- 3rd Place** CBD Isolate by Genotype A2

BEST TOPICAL

- 1st Place** Vanilla Mint Michigan
Organic Rub with CBD powered by
Loyalty Extracts by Herbal Solutions
- 2nd Place** Soylen Soothing Balm
by Arborside - Soylen Joe
- 3rd Place** Hot Cocoa Chamomile
Dream Cream by SweetStone Candy

BEST NON-SOLVENT HASH

- 1st Place** Cookies & Cream Cubantech
Drysift by Exotic Genetix with The
Cuban Grower
- 2nd Place** Strawberry Banana Dry Sift
by Heady Heads
- 3rd Place** Grease Monkey - 73µFreeze

- Dried Water Hash
by Michigan Made Melts

BEST INDICA CONCENTRATE

- 1st Place** Lemon Candy Budder Chips
by Critical Concentrates / Banana-
Berry Farms / Los Angeles Kush
- 2nd Place** Purple One 1 by Herbal
Solutions - Ypsilanti
- 3rd Place** White Walker OG
by Gold Coast

BEST HYBRID CONCENTRATE

- 1st Place** Strawnana Walker
by Gold Coast
- 2nd Place** Green Suicide Budder
Chips by Critical Concentrates / Bana-
naBerry Farms / Los Angeles Kush
- 3rd Place** Tahoe OG Live Resin by
Higher Society Extracts / Herbal Solu-
tions / Plant42morrow

BEST SATIVA CONCENTRATE

- 1st Place** Durbin Mint Cookies
by Herbal Solutions Ypsi / Loyalty
Extracts
- 2nd Place** Green Dragon
by Chilly's Gardens
- 3rd Place** Purple Tangie
by Better Budder Bureau

BEST CBD EDIBLE

- 1st Place** Cherry Oatmeal Ganja
Delight by Arborside Delights
- 2nd Place** Salsa by Chrondiments
- 3rd Place** CBDDee's Half & Half
by LightSky Farms

BEST EDIBLE

- 1st Place** Captain Kirk's Key Lime
Ganja Pops by Captain Kirk's Edibles
and SkunkWerks
- 2nd Place** Paul's Potcorn by Mitten
Mama Meds
- 3rd Place** Chocolate Mint Ice Cream
Sandwich by Arborside Delights

BEST BOOTH

- 1st Place** Los Angeles Kush
- 2nd Place** Exotic Genetix
- 3rd Place** Herbal Solutions

BEST PRODUCT

- 1st Place** Los Angeles Kush / California
Finest / Mally Elite
- 2nd Place** Herbal Solutions / EZ
Squeeze
- 3rd Place** Advanced Nutrients

BEST VAPORIZER

- 1st Place** Paragon by Cloud Pen

BEST GLASS

- 1st Place** Exotic Genetix Scoz Dragon
- 2nd Place** Herbal Solutions
- 3rd Place** SkunkwerksRX

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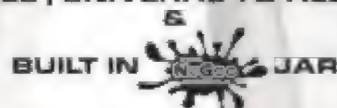


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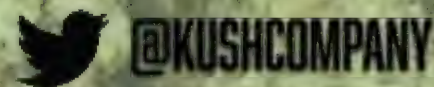
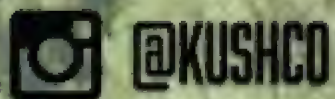


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10 **STUPID** Drug Myths

For drug warriors, fabrication is the name of the game. It's our job to set the record straight—so we can get stoned with peace of mind! *By Sophie Saint Thomas*

Marijuana can have life-threatening side effects. For instance, the other day, I accidentally ordered two sides of wings with my pizza instead of just one. I almost died from deliciousness.

And psychedelics should also be avoided at all costs. I should know: I once dropped LSD and bought a whole bunch of tie-dyes. But after I came down, I discovered they were just plain white.

From cats doomed to be stoned forever, to LSD-dosed tattoos, to the gateway theory, we've heard 'em all! As Lee Hopcraft, an organizer for the BUD Summit in Washington, DC, told *High Times*: "It's a gateway drug, but not a gateway to hell—it's a gateway to new opportunities!"

Hell yeah, Lee! So here are 10 drug-related urban legends and why they're bullshit.



If your cat gets high, they'll be that way forever.

On my cat's birthday, I presented him with a catnip plant. (Mommy has her green; kitty has his.) Catnip is one thing, but what about cats and pot?

Let's be honest: Some of you pet owners have blown pot into your kitty's ears. According to veterinarian and certified veterinary acupuncturist Patrick Mahaney, cats do get stoned.

"If a cat inhales or ingests cannabis, they may experience euphoria as a result of the THC and feel a pain-relieving and sedating effect from the CBD," Mahaney says.

Just like us, how high a cat gets depends on THC levels, the cat's

weight and how much it consumes. Obviously, when you're high as hell and your cat is too, the last thing you wanna hear is that your feline friend will be baked forever.

Don't fret, you crazy cat fans! If our kitties get too stoned, they just need to wait it out.

"Over time, the effect will dissipate as the body metabolizes the THC and CBD through the liver, kidneys and other organ systems, and the cat should no longer experience the sensations of euphoria or pain relief and sedation," Mahaney says. "The cat should not have an ongoing sensation of being high."

Just to be safe, though, keep the weed for yourself.

2



LSD will send you to an insane asylum. It's ironic, given that LSD is phenomenal for mind expansion—allowing users to become more empathetic, emotionally intelligent and open-minded—that the fun police have long perpetuated the myth that if you ingest too much of it, you'll go insane and have to be locked up in the loony bin.

Full disclosure: The most I've ever taken at one time is three and a half tabs. But to ensure this urban legend's falsity, I asked a friend by the name of Keys, who accidentally drank nearly whole bottle of liquid LSD, about the experience.

Keys didn't end up locked away, but he did trip for days and become very good friends with the stray animals in his neighborhood.

"It was pretty crazy—I completely lost my sense of self," he recalls. So if you're going to consume an immense amount of acid, the only real concern is having a clear schedule.

3

If you ask an undercover cop if they're a cop, they have to tell you.

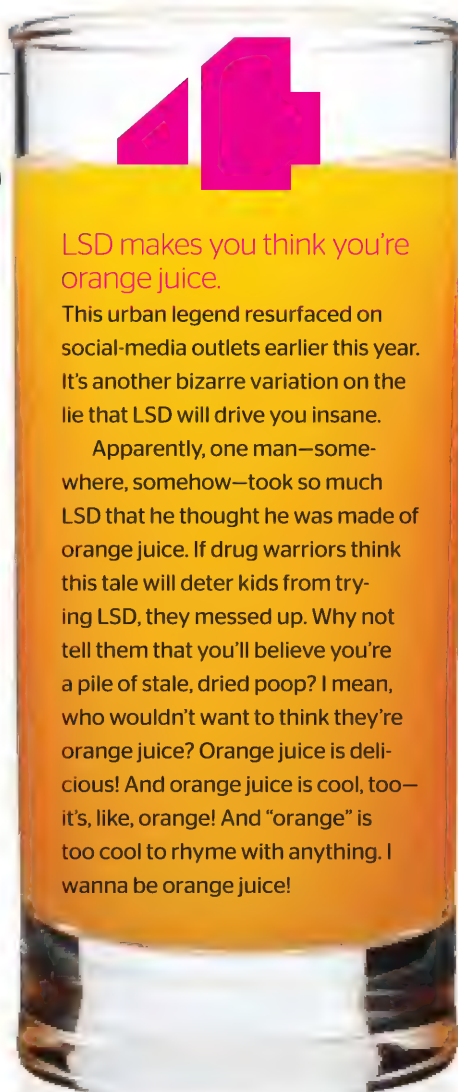
Ah, if only this myth were true. As an attorney told me: "If he's undercover, he's undercover."

Also, if you're detained or arrested, there's only one good way to talk to the police: Don't. Refuse to answer any questions. And call a lawyer.

LSD makes you think you're orange juice.

This urban legend resurfaced on social-media outlets earlier this year. It's another bizarre variation on the lie that LSD will drive you insane.

Apparently, one man—some-where, somehow—took so much LSD that he thought he was made of orange juice. If drug warriors think this tale will deter kids from trying LSD, they messed up. Why not tell them that you'll believe you're a pile of stale, dried poop? I mean, who wouldn't want to think they're orange juice? Orange juice is delicious! And orange juice is cool, too—it's, like, orange! And "orange" is too cool to rhyme with anything. I wanna be orange juice!



5

Pot stored in your fat cells will cause flashbacks.

Where does this stuff come

from? Just like the buzzkills sang about acid hiding in your spine, a generation has been warned that cannabis hibernates in your fat cells, kinda like a dormant volcano, erupting when you least expect it in the form of a flashback. Of course, there's no scientific evidence backing this up, and none for the similar LSD rumor.

In 2009, scientists injected rats with THC, then put the poor things through severe stress and starvation to see if such horrid experiences would trigger a delayed THC release. They found that stress might possibly re-release some THC from previous consumption, but not enough to get you stoned off your fat deposits. The human users who have reported "flashbacks" seem to have experienced them following exercise and were actually just enjoying "runner's high." (Sometimes it pays to get off the couch!)

For those prone to paranoia, a panic attack can absolutely make you feel like you've slightly lost touch with reality. So if you undergo what feels like a weed flashback, maybe your endorphins are firing from exercise, or maybe you're experiencing a bout of anxiety. Or maybe you've just smoked a joint so fat that you forgot you smoked it.



6

Strangers give kids weed candy on Halloween.

Remember when you were a kid, and your parents warned you about strangers hiding razor blades inside of candy apples on Halloween? Well, the drug warriors report that something even scarier is being handed out—cannabis!

As recently as last year, government agencies in legal states like Washington and Colorado were issuing fear-mongering warnings to parents about cannabis-infused edibles disguised as trick-or-treat candy. What actually happened?

Um, nothing... there were no reported cases of Halloween-related cannabis ingestion by children.



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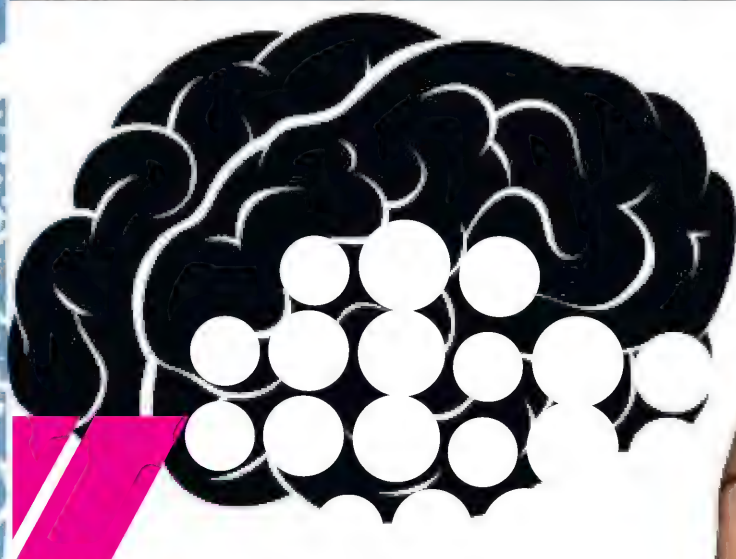
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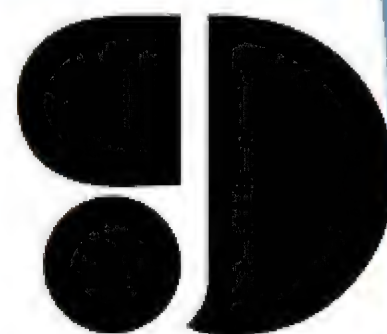


MDMA pokes holes in your brain.

Relax, your brain isn't riddled with Swiss-cheese-style holes like the retired cop told you it would be during a PowerPoint presentation in your high-school gym. But if you do feel like your brain is being eaten away, it's probably because these trumped-up anti-drug rumors have rendered you a frantic basket case.

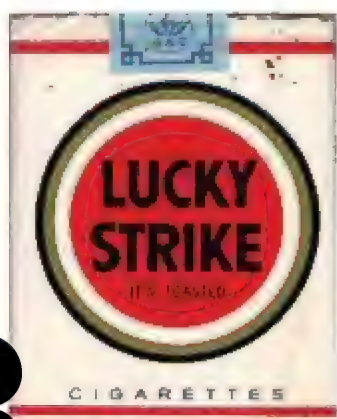
Simply put, MDMA doesn't cause holes in the human brain. "It's funny that that one's still around," says Lauren Austin Ciovacco, the community-outreach and operations director of Medicinal Mindfulness, an organization that provides mindfulness services for people who use psychedelics and cannabis. Ciovacco believes that the brain-hole legend originated from the truth that MDMA does impact serotonin axon levels, which is why it makes you feel awesome.

Furthermore, even the DEA greenlighted medical trials on MDMA as a treatment for PTSD. MDMA could allow veterans to confront negative memories without being overwhelmed by dread, thus helping them to deal with their trauma.



Drug dealers give children temporary tattoos made with LSD.

Back in the 1970s, warnings spread that temporary tattoos resembling postage stamps—and with a secret payload of LSD—were being distributed to children. It seems that many urban legends about cannabis and psychedelics are based on the premise that people really want to give away their drugs. What demonstrates is how desperately we'd spectacularly square the War on Drug-mongers had to be to make this shit up in the first place! Of all the recreational chemicals, LSD is the one that best invokes a sense of community and oneness—but my friends still make me pay for my tabs.



Lucky Strike Cigarettes Contained Weed

Imagine if, every time Don Draper lit a cigarette on *Mad Men*, he was actually getting blitzed. He probably would've drunk a whole lot less and had a whole lot fewer problems. Unfortunately—not!

The myth is that smoking one of these was a "lucky strike" because you were really puffing on marijuana. Plus the slogan on the pack reads: "It's toasted." But that was in reference to the tobacco, not the stoned sensation we all know and love.



Marijuana is a "gateway" drug.

We saved the biggest and most damaging urban legend for last. We're happy to announce, categorically and unequivocally, that weed is not a gateway drug. The factors that lead to hard-drug use are things like poverty, mental illness, poor social environment, and association with people who use hard drugs. Of course, good old prohibition and criminalization are hugely responsible as well.

Ironically, cannabis is very likely a reverse-gateway drug. Health professionals are finding it to be highly beneficial for harm reduction, helping patients to break addictions to dangerous drugs like opiates. In fact, Colorado medical cannabis doctor Wendy Zaharko reports: "Many patients come to me and say they've found cannabis helpful in getting off meth or heroin."

So there you have it. Doctor's orders: Relax, and go get stoned! 🌿



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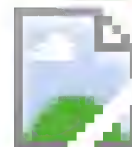
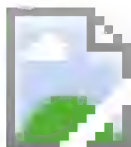
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We've scoured the planet in search of the best marijuana varieties that have connoisseurs, aficionados and medical patients buzzing. Behold our list of the year's 10 best Cannabis Cup winners, high-THC testers and flavorful new pot strains. *By Danny Danko and T.H. Caeczar*



Black Lavender

*Lineage: Garberville Lavender x
(Blackberry Kush x Purple Mr. Nice Guy)*

Flowering time: 8 to 9 weeks

Island Mountain Seeds

This beautiful specimen was bred by Kevin Emery in the heart of NorCal's marijuana country. The *indica*-dominant Black

Lavender smells sweet and floral, with notes of pomegranate and plum, and provides serious pain relief and couchlock for those seeking rest and relaxation. "Around week five," Kevin advises, "she starts exhibiting an array of colors, including purple and lavender hues set around dense, dark green buds." Growers should keep in mind that she's a moderate stretcher, so trellising helps to shape the plant and increase yields.



Do-Si-Dos

Lineage: Girl Scout Cookies (OGKB Cut) x Faceoff OG Bx1
Flowering time: 8 to 9 weeks
Contact: @archiveseedbank

This was one of the first OG Kush Breath crosses available in seed form, and she originally sold for \$900 per pack of seeds! There's been so much hype surrounding this strain for most of the last two years, and for good reason: She has incredible bag appeal and an intoxicating aroma of freshly baked lemon curd and mint pastry, with a sugary, doughy shortbread-cookie/ladyfingers undertone. The flavor is similar to other Girl Scout Cookie strains available today, but there will be some slight differences depending on the F1 phenotypes that emerge from the seeds. Expect her to grow slow and stretch very little, but with high overall quality and resin production. This plant is also great to grow if you don't have much space to work with.



Mendo Breath

Lineage: OGKB x Mendo Montage
Flowering time: 8 to 9 weeks
Contact: gageoriginals.com or gagegreen.org

Mendo Breath has been building momentum since its release a couple of years ago. She was bred by Gage Green Group, who describe her scent and taste as "an assortment of vanilla, caramel and mint chocolate mixed with fresh berries"—and we wholeheartedly agree. The buzz from this old-school/new-school hybrid is meditative and trance-like, perfect for aiding creativity and calming anxiety and insomnia. Some phenotypes may take as long as 10 weeks to finish, but they're well worth the wait and turn purple as they ripen. The result is a perfect spear-shaped dark nugget that glistens with frost and provides a deeply healing feeling.



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**'92 OG**

Lineage: OG Kush

Flowering time: 8 to 10 weeks

3rd-Place Indica Concentrate, 2016 SoCal Cup

Contact: @theebubbakush,

@TheRealOGKushStory

This was one of the first OG Kush strains to appear on the scene, and if you follow JoshD @TheRealOGKushStory on Instagram, you'll see that he's one of the important pieces in the OG Kush puzzle. This particular cut was discovered in Florida by Matt "Bubba Kush" Berger and his crew in 1992 and made its way to California in '96, where it blew up in popularity. It's believed that many other watered-down "OG" varieties came from bag seeds or an S1 (selfed version) of the '92 OG, so this one is truly the original super-potent strain that cannabis connoisseurs know and love.

**Colorado Bubba**

Lineage: Bubba Kush ('92 OG x NL #5)
(Clone Doctor Cut)

Flowering time: 8 to 9 weeks

1st-Place Indica, 2014 Cannabis Cup

Contact: The Vault Genetics/MMJ America,
mmjamerica.com

With her super-stony high, incredible flavor and amazing bag appeal, the Colorado Bubba beat out a formidable series of competitors to be voted Best *Indica* at the *High Times* Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam in 2014. This Bubba Kush cut tastes like a fresh bowl of Fruity Pebbles and is available for purchase in seed form at all MMJ America locations in Colorado. Growers will appreciate this one in particular, since she's quick to germinate, easy to root and solid to the finish line. This is the Bubba that has stood the test of time.

**Goji OG**

Lineage: Nepali OG x (Afgoo x Blockhead)

Flowering time: 8 to 10 weeks

1st-Place 2014 Non-Solvent Hash, SoCal Cup

3rd-Place 2013 US Hash, Seattle Cup

Contact: Bodhi Seeds @HeadieGardens,
@Incanlama & @SeedVaultOfCA1

The Goji OG isn't like most of the OGs currently on the market. She has a distinct taste and scent reminiscent of white wine or white grapes, with hints of tart berries and earthy spice, in the Snow Lotus-dominant phenos (Afgoo x Blockhead), and some big, chunky, OG-esque tastes and scents in the Nepali OG-dominant phenos. Expect a decent (medium-size) yield but superior, connoisseur-grade aroma and flavor. If you're looking for the clone-only versions, keep your eyes out for the Pinesol or Purple Goji phenotypes.

**Catfish**

Lineage: OG 18 x OG 18

Flowering time: 9 to 11 weeks

1st-Place Sativa, 2014 Michigan Cup

Contact: arborside.com

Another Michigan stalwart, Catfish originated as an accidental backcross by Midnight Roots of Reserva Privada's OG 18. The first thing you'll notice about her is the pungent aroma, with scents of lemongrass and "sweet, swampy fish," as Arborside's Rhory Gould describes it. She grows tall and lanky, stretching into week six of flowering, but will bless the patient grower with a large and dense yield. This one will definitely give you the munchies, which means it's great for treating appetite loss and nausea in those undergoing chemotherapy or suffering from anorexia, Crohn's disease, or other stomach issues. Catfish is also highly uplifting—perfect for a camping or fishing trip or an excursion to the beach.

Star Dawg







Gelato





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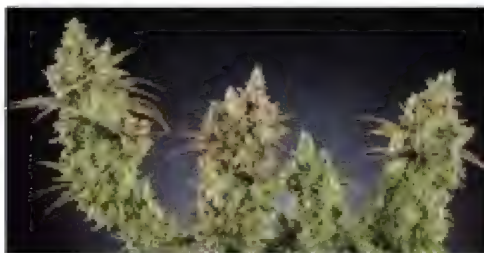
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Star Dawg

Lineage: Chem 4 x Tres Dawg
Flowering time: 9 to 10 weeks
2nd-Place Indica, 2013 Seattle Cup
3rd-Place Sativa, 2013 Denver Cup
Contact: topdawgseeds.com

This Chem 4 x Tres Dawg cross is sanctioned by Chem Dog himself (unlike some of the other Chem-family-based breeding projects), and she ranges in flavor and aroma from sweet to astringent, with notes of diesel fuel and garlic. There have been four releases of Star Dawg seeds over the years, which means there are many phenotypes to choose from, including Corey Haim, Guava, Illuminati and Kate Upton. All are slightly different in terms of taste, smell, effect, structure, flowering time, resin content and color. Corey Haim and Illuminati are the hardest hitters, Guava is the sweetest and heaviest producer, and Kate Upton is almost purple.



Gorilla Glue #4

Lineage: (Sour Dubb x Chem Sister) x Chocolate Diesel
Flowering time: 9 to 10 weeks
1st-Place Hybrid, 2014 Michigan Cup
1st-Place Hybrid, 2014 SoCal Cup
1st-Place Hybrid, 2015 Jamaica Cup
Contact: gorillaglu4.com

Gorilla Glue #4 has been turning heads for several years and has finally earned her rightful place on our illustrious list. Bred by Josey Wales, Gorilla Glue (or GG for short) is an accidental cross between Sour Dubb, Chem Sister and Chocolate Diesel. Earthy and piney, the strain is very pungent and hard-hitting as well as super-sticky. Patients report that this variety “glues them to the couch,” making her perfect for light sleepers and insomniacs. Growers appreciate the above-average yields, and extract artists rave about the quality and flavor of the oil they produce from Gorilla Glue #4.



Gelato

Lineage: Sunset Sherbet x Thin Mint
Flowering time: 8 to 10 weeks
Contact: @Sherbinski415 @Jigga415

The Cookie Fam had the brilliant idea of conducting a group taste test to narrow down the different phenotypes of the Sunset Sherbet x Thin Mint. Out of all the different phenos, the five that stuck around were the Gelato #1 (Guno), #25 (Barry Bonds), #33 (Larry Bird), #41 (Bacio Gelato) and #45. Our favorite was the #33: solid, chunky, sticky purple buds that have an aroma similar to hashy Grape Crush soda. The visuals will grab your attention, but the aroma and flavor will tell you why it's so popular right now. Each Gelato phenotype has something different to offer, so try them all to determine which one best suits your palate. 🌿



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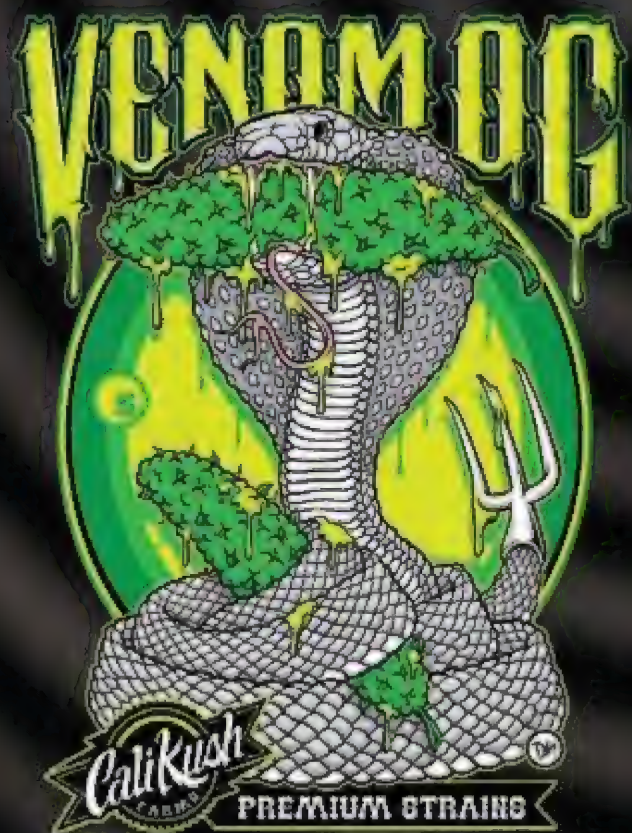
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It's cropping season in the Southern Hemisphere, and one of the biggest medical marijuana harvests in the world is happening in a quiet corner of the South American jungle. *Story & photos courtesy of Paradise Seeds*

Welcome to Paradise

A large-scale cannabis farm in Latin America has been causing headlines around the world. This grow is a revolutionary project taking place in Chile and powered by 6,500 Paradise Seeds plants! The Dutch seed company provided all of the strains being grown on this legal plantation belonging to the nonprofit Daya Foundation, which has a license from the Chilean government to grow cannabis for use as medicine for patients around the country.

The medical cannabis produced on this farm will be used to treat a range of conditions—everything from life-threatening cancer to arthritis, multiple sclerosis and child epilepsy. It's an impressive project, and one that could provide a blueprint for cannabis-medicine production and distribution

throughout Latin America—and beyond.

The 6,500 plants are being tended by the Daya Foundation's 13 full-time gardeners, who will be joined by another 17 people to help with the mammoth job of harvesting, cutting and trimming. "The buds are looking phenomenal," says Daya co-founder and director Nicolas Dormal. "The farm is looking absolutely beautiful, and we're predicting a great harvest." Daya expects to harvest over 2,000 kilos of prime bud!

Once the bud is dried, it will be shipped (under armed guard) for processing at a dedicated laboratory. The cannabis oil that is extracted will be used to prepare medicine that will then be lab-tested to ensure that it meets Chilean health regulations, and will ultimately be distributed to patients after a series of clinical trials.

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Rows of youngsters begin their journey.



The Perfect Match

While new growers are often seduced by promotions that offer cheap seeds and big yields, experienced growers know to look past the hype and focus on what's really important. They want seeds that carry the right genetic code to ensure a consistent and reliable crop—three seeds in a pack that will grow into three plants of similar size and yield, instead of one huge, bud-filled bush and two weedy specimens with hardly anything on them.

When setting up a grow, cannabis gardeners do what they can to provide the best environment for their plants, but they also depend on the quality of their seeds to bring the magic. Paradise Seeds has gained a reputation for great genetics over the course of many years. They've been at the forefront of developments in the cannabis industry, pioneering the evolution of auto-flowering and feminized strains and improving CBD-rich medical varieties as well. The Daya Foundation's gardeners quickly recognized the quality of Paradise Seeds' strains during Chile's first legal grow in 2014–15, based on their germination rate, stability, and resistance to pests and disease.

Pop Seeds

The germination rate for Paradise's seeds (including the massive Daya grow) is around 95 percent—a reassuring statistic for any cannabis gardener. Strain stability is illustrated by the incredible photos coming from the Daya Foundation, which show a forest canopy with plants displaying a striking uniformity of growth. The fact that Paradise's strains have been organically bred is important too, as Daya is growing marijuana for medicinal use. This also extends to the plants' in-bred resistance to pests and disease—in short, stronger plants are healthier plants.

As Paradise Seeds owner Luc Krol says, "Since 1985, we've been breeding, backcrossing and preserving genetic traits, working with our plants every day to ensure that we control every step of the seed process. Our carefully selected mother plants are of the highest possible quality in regards to pest and disease resistance, and also in respect to yielding large buds with lots of THC glands." The proof of this focus and attention to detail is a trophy cabinet filled with High Times Cannabis Cups and other major marijuana awards.

The Daya Foundation's gardeners have been working hard to maintain this impressive grow since it began in October 2015. With many more plants under cultivation than last year, the team has been experimenting with planting and growing techniques—for example, half of the crop is outdoors and the other half is under plastic poly tunnels. The gardeners are monitoring the effectiveness of these various methods.

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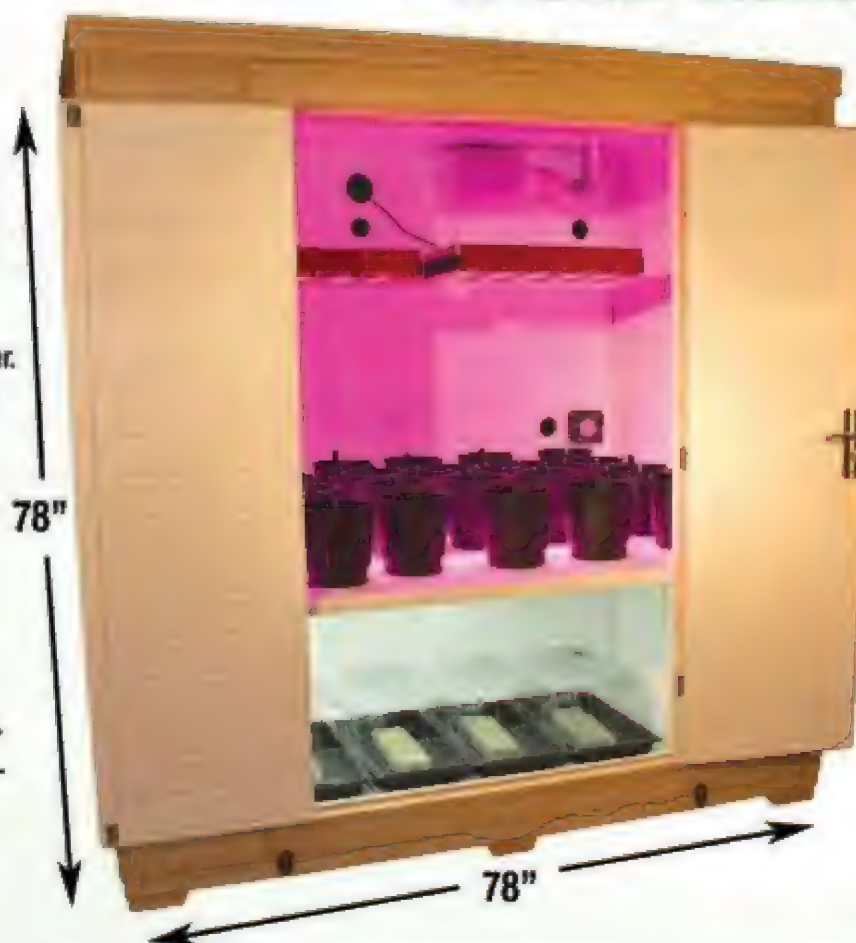
(Above) The field of dreams flourishes in Daya Foundation's gardens. (Below) Workers prepare the soil with the outdoor and greenhouse grows in the background.



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What's in the Garden?

Daya chose 16 Paradise Seeds strains to plant, including a mix of medicinal varieties rich in CBD, and some *sativa*- and *indica*-dominant varieties as well. Once harvested, these plants will provide a range of THC and CBD levels for testing in the lab.

In addition to the Durga Mata II CBD and the Nebula II CBD (adaptations of popular Paradise Seeds strains with enhanced medicinal qualities), the Daya Foundation selected two multiple Cannabis Cup-winning *indicas*—the legendary Sensi Star and Ice Cream—which impressed with their robust growth in Daya's first legal grow.

The very popular Wappa variety was also selected alongside two big-hitting *sativas*, Jacky White and Delahaze. The seed shipment included two original classics straight from the Paradise Seeds genetics vault: Original Cheese and Original White Widow.

Paradise Seeds and the Daya Foundation came together in early 2014, when Dormal and his team were looking for a seed supplier. Dormal wrote to many seed companies but received either no answer or was told that it was impossible to export seeds to Chile. One company did reply, however: Krol saw the potential of the Daya Foundation's project and the passion of those involved. The rest, as they say, is history...



CBD-rich plants will provide medicine for many.

What's Next for Daya?

The foundation's ultimate goal is to produce cannabis-based medicine that can be distributed cheaply to the people who need it most. Big pharmaceutical companies do not figure into this equation! Daya is working with 20 Chilean municipalities to provide medicine to treat 200 patients in each district. This will be tested by Chilean health authorities and, once approved, will allow medicine to be provided for hundreds of patients.

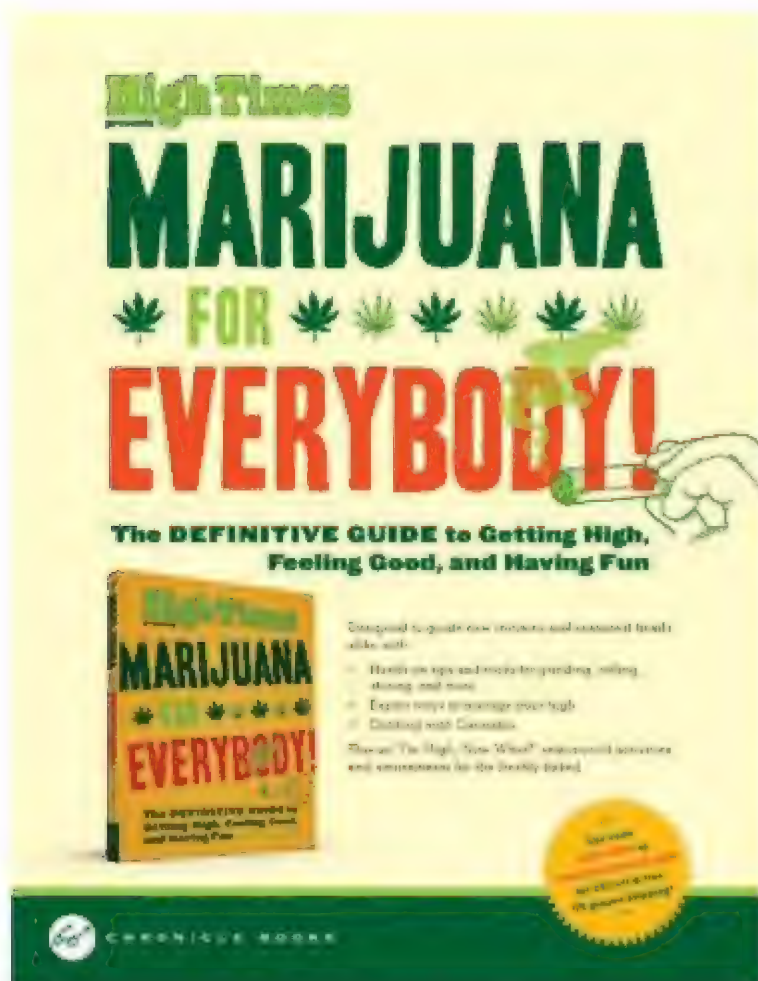
Dormal says, "We've made incredible

progress to get this far, but things take time, and we must do everything correctly to satisfy the requirements of the Chilean health authorities—just like with any medicine." All of the indicators are looking very good, he adds, and Daya's blueprint for a sustainable medical cannabis model in Chile that provides cheap medicine has huge support from the public and from many politicians.

For now, however,


Dormal's thoughts are on the massive harvest that is coming up at the Daya plantation. "We're expecting the job to last a month. It is going to be a *lot* of work," he says with a smile. "Last week, we had a donation of 30 pairs of scissors. I think we're going to need them!" ✱

The background of this amazing story is told in the documentary Green Medicine: Chile's Medical Cannabis Revolution, which can be seen on Paradise Seeds' YouTube channel.



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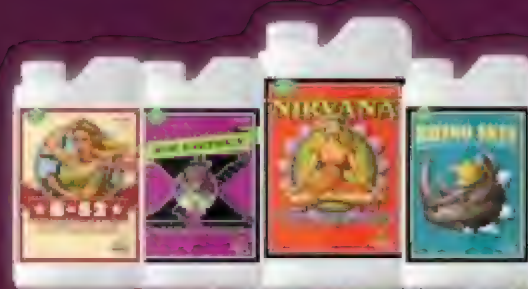
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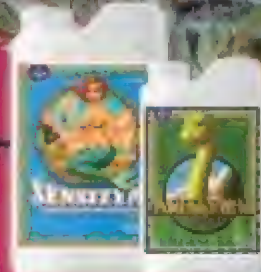
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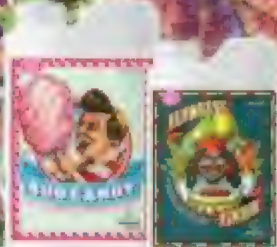
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Stoners Are Smarter

Can smoking cannabis make you more intelligent? The latest research says yes. Or, at the very least, it can make your brain work more creatively and enhance its performance. *By Rick Thompson, Illustrations by Jungyeon Roh*

Modern science is finally addressing the question of how cannabis affects the human brain, and its positive impacts are astonishing. Let's take a look at some recent—and sometimes contentious—history.

In 2012, the forces of marijuana prohibition were given a shiny new weapon to wield when scientists involved in the Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health and Development Study, a long-term research project in New Zealand, concluded that using marijuana can lower a person's IQ by as much as eight points. The mainstream media seized on the report, and news of yet another scientific study “confirming” the dangers of cannabis quickly spread across the globe.

But almost as quick were the challenges to the study's conclusions—particularly *how* they were reached. After much debate and careful evaluation of the methodology, most of the study's scientific critics agreed that it hadn't compensated for socioeconomic factors such as poverty, family environment and whether the subject had dropped out of school.

Meanwhile, an earlier study dealing with marijuana and IQ, this one by researchers in Canada, found that even heavy marijuana use had no enduring effect on so-called lower executive

function or cognitive speed. The study, published in the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, involved 70 subjects and compared their IQ scores after a period of eight years, starting from ages 9 to 12 and ending at ages 17 to 20. These subjects were divided into four groups: heavy cannabis users (five or more joints per week), light users (less than five joints per week), former users (people who hadn't toked in at least three months), and non-users (people who had never tried cannabis at all). Also, all of the participants were middle-class—a significant difference from the New Zealand study.

On average, the IQ of non-users in the Canadian study increased by 2.6 points over the study period. But the IQ of former users increased by 3.5 points, and light users increased their IQ scores by 5.8 points—more than double the average increase in non-users.

However, heavy smokers *lost* 4.1 points, which reinforced the stoner stereotype and naturally became the media's focus in reporting on the study. Of course, not every heavy toker ends up wrecked for life. In *Barack Obama: The Story*, journalist David Maraniss documented our current president's membership in the Choom Gang back in his high-school days, a circle of pot-smoking

buddies of which the teenage Obama was the most enthusiastic member. But he seems to be doing well now.

Overlooked, but not to be ignored, is the intriguing *increase* in IQ points experienced by casual marijuana smokers in the study. Even former users of cannabis showed nearly a full 1-point boost over non-users, although the study's author, Dr. Peter Fried of Carleton University in Ottawa, paradoxically asserted that there was no necessary connection between pot use and the increased scores.

Meanwhile, researchers led by Gráinne Schafer of the Clinical Psychopharmacology Unit at University College, London, measured creativity, divergent thinking and “schizotopy” in cannabis users. (Schizotopy is a theory proposing that a continuum exists between the imaginative states characteristic of creative thinking on one end of the spectrum and psychotic, especially schizophrenic, states on the other.) While the British researchers opined that the “chronic [cannabis] use is associated with elevated rates of psychosis”—an assertion that has proved controversial in recent years—they also noted that cannabis “has been linked to creativity in many studies.” In one such study, cannabis users produced more original responses on an associative-ability test while



under the influence; in another, verbal fluency was significantly improved by THC, a result that was also shown to be dose-dependent.

The biologic process of creativity is a complex series of cause-and-effect chemical interactions. In 2010, a group of researchers led by Celia Morgan, from the same psychopharmacology unit at University College, London, published a paper titled “Hyper-Priming in Cannabis Users: A Naturalistic Study of the Effects of Cannabis on Semantic Memory Function.” The researchers discovered that smoking cannabis created a condition of enhanced semantic priming, which led to quicker response times in linking seemingly distant or unrelated concepts—one hallmark of creative thinking.

This was similar to the findings of the Schafer study, which “suggested that cannabis produces psychotomimetic symptoms... an aspect of divergent thinking considered primary to creative thinking,” as Dr. V. Krishna Kumar wrote

in *Psychology Today*. Schafer and her colleagues speculated that cannabis use stimulates the release of a neurotransmitter called dopamine in certain regions of the brain, including the frontal cortex. The Morgan group didn’t focus on brain chemistry, but the results of the two studies are consistent.

Supporting the concept that using cannabis increases the brain’s output of dopamine—and reinforcing the theory of how this mechanism affects thinking—is a 2012 study of the scientific literature by Dr. Erik B. Oleson of the University of Colorado in Denver. The mere *anticipation* of cannabis consumption, he found, stimulates a burst of activity in the midbrain’s dopamine neurons, activating low-level D1 receptors even without a chemical stimulus and making us crave what’s to come.

And when the brain gets what it wants, we experience the full benefits of the human reward system. Cannabinoids stimulate the production of dopamine

by lowering the threshold of stimulation necessary for the neurons to fire. As a result, the neurons go into overdrive, which means plenty of dopamine to make our brains feel good—and very little stimulation required to make the mind begin exploring.

The excess of dopamine also leads to randomness of thought, the Schafer study notes. This effect generates both positive and negative effects on memory and thinking.

Consider the threshold of stimulation necessary to connect your sister with the name of her first husband. You may have been familiar with the man—enough to know that you didn’t like him much—but you can’t remember his name. Then your friend sees his picture and says that he looks like a dick. And suddenly you recall his name: *Peter*.

Your sister and Peter’s name were always connected via memory, but the pathway between them was interrupted until a random “dick” comment renewed the neural link. When the threshold of stimulation for neurons is lowered and they fire more readily—as is the case after toking up—it can be easier to make such connections.

This randomness of thought is known by another term: creativity. One trait of intelligent people is the ability to problem-solve, and that involves innovative thought applied to challenges that resist normal logic. When smart people need inspiration—or the capacity to “think outside the box”—cannabis enables it readily.

Cannabinoids act upon the neurons themselves through the regulation of chemical inhibition. Other drugs also increase dopamine levels: As Dr. Kumar observed in his *Psychology Today* article, “A drug induced altered state of mind may indeed lead to breaking free from ordinary thinking and associations, thereby, increasing the likelihood of generating novel ideas or associations.”

But cocaine and other drugs don’t stimulate the brain’s dopamine-based reward system in the same way that cannabis does. In fact, they inhibit the brain’s normal process for the removal of dopamine, much like beavers blocking a river to create a lake, generating a slow-building pool of dopamine to deliver our brain a reward. But while cannabinoids act as a neuron *enhancer*, these other drugs act as dopamine-uptake *inhibitors* and therefore do little to inspire creativity.

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Dr. Oleson and Dr. Joseph F. Cheer of the University of Maryland also explored the concept of cannabis dependence, examining two animal studies regarding cannabis-withdrawal syndrome. In one study, cannabis was suddenly withheld from test subjects, causing “mild withdrawal symptoms that were relatively difficult to detect.” In the second study, CB1 receptors were blocked by chemical intervention; the results were dramatic and included “wet-dog syndrome” (i.e., uncontrolled shaking). But these results seem easy to comprehend: Avoid pharmaceutical drugs that block your CB1 receptors, and you’ll be able to navigate the times without doobage pretty well. Indeed, in 2012, another study found that when cannabis use ceases, the brain doesn’t display the same kind of wear-and-tear found in users of other drugs when they quit. “Unlike other addictions, cannabis dependence of mild to moderate severity is not associated with striatal DA [dopamine] alterations,” concluded a team of scientists at the New York State Psychiatric Institute.

For decades, scientists insisted that we are born with a finite number of neurons and that every time we smoked a joint, marijuana “killed a few brain cells.” But

Multiple studies show that cannabinoids reduce or remove tumors like gliomas in the brain.

according to a 2013 study led by Sara Xapelli at the Instituto de Medicina Molecular in Lisbon, Portugal, the cannabinoid CBD can stimulate the brain to grow new neurons out of progenitor cells, thereby promoting the brain’s self-renewal and increasing the proliferation of brain cells.

Spanish and Brazilian researchers led by A.C. Campos of the University of Sao Paulo released the results of their experiments with mice and cannabinoids in 2013. They wrote: “Cannabidiol (CBD), the main non-psychotomimetic component of the plant *Cannabis sativa*, exerts therapeutically promising effects on human mental health such as inhibition of psychosis, anxiety and depression.” In other words, cannabis calms you and gives you mental peace—but we already knew that, even without all the research.

Busting tumors is something that cannabis does, too. Multiple studies show

that cannabinoids reduce or remove tumors like gliomas in the brain. A research team from St. George’s University in London found that THC and CBD not only directly inhibit tumor cells; they can also make radiation treatment more effective.

So if you’re a cannabis user, long-term smoking *does* change the way your brain is wired—for the better!—while CBD encourages brain-cell growth. Moderate use can increase your IQ by as much as twice that of your non-smoker friends. Moreover, your cannabis-induced creative thinking may win you accolades at work and in your personal life. With less anxiety and depression—but more dopamine—your brain’s performance will be optimized. And if cancer tries to rear its ugly head, cannabis will provide your body with the best chance of beating back that badness.

So can cannabis make you smarter? When all of the science is considered, the answer appears to be: Yes, weed can! And that makes using cannabis a smart choice. ✨

Rick Thompson is a board member of Michigan ASA, MI NORML and MI Legalize.

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WITH OMAR AND HIS PALS - TODD & LANGSTON

AND IN A SURPRISING CHALLENGE TO NATIONAL MARIJUANA REFORM...

LIH OH!

THIS EPISODE - THAT'S THE WAY THE COOKIE CRUMBLES!

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, SENATOR CHUCK CHUNKY, HAS STATED THAT IF HE'S ELECTED...

SEN. CHUNKY SPEAKS OUT

THIS CAN'T BE GOOD!

...HE WOULD, QUOTE, "PROSECUTE ALL THESE STATE POT BUSINESSES UNDER THE FULLEST EXTENT OF FEDERAL LAW!", UNQUOTE. HE RECENTLY HAD THIS TO SAY...

MARIJUANA IS DEFINITELY A GATEWAY DRUG THAT WILL DESTROY THIS GREAT NATION OF OURS!

BOO!

THAT DOOSH IS GONNA BE CAMPAIGNING HERE TOMORROW!

I BET IF WE GOT 'EM TO TRY ONE OF OUR FAMOUS 'KOZMIK KUSH KOOKIES'...

YUM-YUM

...HE'D MELLOW OUT ON THAT INSANE CANNABIS POLICY HE'S GOT!

YAH AND NOW YOU GONNA DO DAT, MAHN?

I GOT ME A PLAN!

EAT 'EM UP!

NEXT DAY...

SENATOR!

SENATOR CHUNKY! OVER HERE!

CARE TO TASTE ONE OF OUR FRESHLY BAKED ALL-AMERICAN FREEDOM SNACKS?

COOKIES FOR CONSERVATIVES FREE TO CANDIDATES

OH YES!

THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT IS ALIVE AND WELL HERE!

SO FELLAS, WHAT KINDA COOKIES ARE THESE?

THE GOOD KIND!

I'LL JUST TRY A FEW!

CRUNCH CRUNCH

SOMETHING IN THESE COOKIES TASTES LIKE...

HMMMM...

HEY!

I KNOW WHAT THESE TASTE LIKE!

THEY TASTE LIKE...

MORE!

LIH OH!

SO... GETTING BUSTED... THAT WAS PART OF YOUR BIG PLAN?

UHHH... I THINK YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH!

WHAT?!

I'M A B%&@#! U.S. SENATOR! I'LL TELL YOU WHEN I'VE HAD ENUFF! LEAEME AT THOSE B%&@#! COOKIES!

YIKES!

WOW!...DUDE MUST'VE EATEN AT LEAST TWO DOZEN COOKIES!

HADN'T REALLY PLANNED ON THAT HAPPENING

MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T BE HERE WHEN THEY ALL KICK IN! KNOW WHUT I MEAN, MAHN?

OHNN YEAH!

LATER...

IN FURTHER POLITICAL NEWS, AFTER GIVING A RAMBLING, INCOHERENT SPEECH TODAY, SEN. CHUNKY HAS SAID HE IS DROPPING OUT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE AND WILL NOW BECOME A FULL-TIME SPOKESMAN FOR SERIOUS MONKEY BIZZNESS...

I'M A PRETTY LITTLE FLOWER!

YAY!

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!



INTERVIEW & PHOTOS
BY DAN SKYE

BANJO

THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW



Banjo in
his home
studio in
Northern
California

AS I DRIVE UP TO BANJO'S HOUSE, HIDDEN IN THE WOODS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, HIS TWIN GIRLS—HE HAS SIX CHILDREN—ROMP ON THE FRONT LAWN OF HIS 11-ACRE SPREAD. IT'S A BUCOLIC SCENE, AN ADVERTISEMENT FOR HIPPIE LIVING AT ITS FINEST. WIDELY CONSIDERED THE ELITE ARTIST ON THE "PIPER" SCENE, BANJO'S WILDLY CREATIVE, FUNCTIONAL GLASS ART HAS

EARNED HIM INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION AS A BRILLIANT CRAFTSMAN AND INNOVATOR. BUT HIS INFLUENCE REACHES WAY BEYOND THE STUDIO. WITH OVER 16 YEARS BEHIND THE TORCH, BANJO VIEWS HIS CELEBRITY AND THE POSSIBILITY OF LEGALIZATION AS THE IDEAL OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE HIS BELIEFS ABOUT WHAT CONSTITUTES SUCCESSFUL, ORGANIC FAMILY LIFE IN THE 21ST CENTURY.

Did you grow up in an artistic atmosphere?

Yes, very much so. My mother is an incredibly talented artist of many mediums and shared her love of creating with me. My dad was always inventing things around the farm, so I had some valuable creative influences from the start.

My mom lives in southern Michigan between Ann Arbor and Battle Creek and my dad's a dairy farmer up north

of Grand Rapids. I grew up between both places—aimless street-roaming, skateboarding and committing assorted shenanigans during my school days, then pitching shit, baling hay and milking cows down on the farm on weekends and summers.

I got out of high school with no real direction. I threw shot put and did pretty well at that my senior year in high school. Sienna Heights University recruited me

heavily. If I'd gone my dad's route, I might have started milking cows right away, but the expectation that I go to college was firm on my mom's side. I began my freshman year in pre-veterinary medicine because I'd always been intrigued by the vets who worked on the large animals on the farm, but one semester of science and—you know—that didn't work out. Things got interesting when I met the art school students. They seemed to have a really good go of it, basically just drinking beer, getting high and drawing pictures all day long. I quickly changed my major to sculpture and art history halfway through my freshman year. Although I'd always involved myself in creative endeavors growing up, I never considered myself an artist in any way, I really didn't have a very developed concept of what art meant to me at that time.

So what was your choice of artistic pursuit?

I was into heavy metal and playing guitars. One of my professors used to make banjos and guitars—a really talented guy. I had this old BC Rich guitar I wanted to fix up. He helped me refurbish it and while I was working on it, he suggested I learn to make them from scratch. It was the first time I'd gotten really deeply into something creative like that.

Why did you quit school?

I started exploring psychedelics right away in college. In my third year, I went to a Rainbow Gathering down in Florida. Jerry Garcia had died not long before that. I didn't follow The Grateful Dead, but right around then I started getting involved with the culture. What I noticed was that most of the core group of the Rainbow Gatherings at that point were ex-Deadheads who had stopped touring and couldn't quite assimilate into



We've learned, through trial and error, ways of being that were probably pioneered in the 60s and 70s by the first wave of psychedelic explorers.

regular society. I was also not feeling particularly attracted to any of the options that the straight world had to offer. I connected to the modern hippie culture through that experience. It wasn't long before I dropped out of college. I made a banjo just for fun, hit the road, and learned to play it while I traveled from Gathering to Gathering.

That's how I got my nickname; people started calling me Banjo Man. I went out west to Oregon in the summer of '97. I was a modern-day nomad hitchhiking around the country and that's where I started seeing glass pipes, although they didn't really intrigue me too much at the time.

Wait a minute. Glass didn't intrigue you?

Not until a couple years later when I had a six-month-old daughter to feed. I saw it as a way for me to make money. Before that, I wasn't that in to it. I just wanted to make banjos.

In 1999 I got a job landscaping and I met this kid Levi Beard who had learned to make glass pipes from Jason Lee and Marcel. Levi was a 15-year-old high school

dropout. I was 23 and had traveled the country. I had a six-month-old kid; his friends and family were all cool heads. I brought them weed and paid Levi's oxygen bill, which was about \$300 on his dad's account, and he showed me the fundamentals. Basically, I learned how to make a pipe from Levi.

But you say you weren't attracted to the medium?

It didn't fascinate me the same way as other artists. I'd found some amount of my inner artist through the building of instruments, a very hands-on craft. I found I used the same creative, neurological pathways that I had building and playing instruments. The same creative problem-solving skills were useful with glass, so that attracted me.

Jason Lee, Marcel, Clinton, Ezra, Pedro—those guys' pipes were everywhere. By this time in 1999, some of these guys were probably doing a thousand-dollar piece a week and I believed I could probably figure out how to do that. I saw it as a way to support my child. I left college never thinking I'd be an artist. I just left to be a hippie. I had no

plans of doing anything but playing banjo, smoking pot, tripping out and living in the woods. Then suddenly you're having a kid. You gotta do something. I saw these guys blowing glass. It looked like fun, an easy, safe way to make money compared to hustling or getting a real job.

When did you realize that you were getting good at it?

Technically good? After a couple weeks. I could tell that I'd be good if I worked hard. I gave it everything I had. I'd work 14-18 hour days regularly. I started putting things together at a fast rate. Creative ideas came to me, things that other people clearly weren't thinking of.

Would you call yourself a "natural?"

Not particularly. I'm average. I think I'm middle-of-the-road as far as my hand skills go. But I dream big when it comes to envisioning projects. Looking back at 17 years of meeting people and helping different beginners—feeling out the spectrum of skills that people come to the table with—I see that some people take to it quickly and naturally. Others take a lot more work to get the hand-eye coordination, the timing—There are a lot of factors going on: the heat, the rate that the glass cools, which affects how hard or soft it is at any given moment. Gravity is another force that acts on it relentlessly. Most people get it, if they work at it.

You're widely considered one of the stars of the glass pipe industry. Where does your legacy fit in?

Well, I know where I fit in the timeline. The Bob Snodgrass clan started things off. Then in the later '90s Clinton, Jason Lee, Marcel, Ezra, Pedro, Chris Dawson, Darby—a whole list of guys, came along. They had an enormous impact on my early work as



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well as the pipe scene in general.

I consider them the second generation of glass pipers. It's where the "headdies" movement started. "Headdies" referred to good herb; then it started to refer to these particular, individualistic pipes made by these guys that were basically the next step beyond Snodgrass and the Eugene crew—the next level.

The third wave includes Shad, Chaz, Drew, Mike Fro, myself and a couple dozen others. Those guys all had their unique flavors and you could easily tell their pieces from each other. So when I started in Corvallis, I had the benefit of at least six unique styles to observe.

Normally, you learn through only one teacher, so it's really hard to get out from underneath the shadow of who really influences you the most in your early years. For me, I can very clearly remember bringing in elements of Chris Dawson, Pedro, Clinton, Ezra, Jason, Marcel—all of them—into everything I did. Those are my roots.

Dispensing with modesty, what do you think makes your art special?

Probably a combination of my influences and my intention. I had many non-glass influences. I went to art school for three and a half years before dropping out to travel the country on a series of psychedelic adventures. When I landed in Oregon, I had a completely different perspective because of the art training. Technically speaking, it was a while before I considered myself proficient, but my own creativity took me a ways while my hands caught



Banjo's "Freija," a Norse goddess

up. Sooner or later, I got up to the level where people were using my name in the same conversation as, say, Clinton and Marcel. Whether I was deserving or not, who knows? By the time I started creating the cars, motorcycles, General Grievous and the Star Wars stuff around 2007, that's when I started going off in my own unique direction. Up until then, glass pipe style had become homogenized; everybody had their reversals and horns, but I left off that and started doing more representational stuff.

I must have more hours on the torch than anybody I know. All of my friends would get to go and have lives and do stuff, but I kept having kids. I had to work hard. With more kids coming, I had to keep going until, all of a sudden, I pushed over into this other place where I am now. Oddly, I only considered myself a craftsman for the better part of 16 years. When I hit the outlaw piper scene, I had the benefit of very deep immersion into the creative process. I'd designed in 3D. I double-majored in photography and sculpture. I welded, did metalsmithing, a lot of woodcarving, clay-sculpting, drawing, painting, etc. Then I got

into making banjos and guitars. All of these things contributed to a broad sense of spatial physics and creative problem-solving skills. I think what makes me "special"—and you won't find me using those words publicly—is that I was the only glassblower around with so many dang kids.

How does your status as a top artist affect you?

I'm getting used to it. I have a big family. The kids and wives keep you in check. It's tricky when you start equating your external accomplishments with your self-worth. There's plenty of my ego that thinks I'm the greatest and that I'm just wonderful, but I don't get to exercise that feeling generally in my everyday—thankfully.

Through most of our career, we try to prove to everybody how great we are, as if we don't believe in ourselves. I've been no exception, but in the last couple years, I'm starting to accept myself, my own gifts and strengths.

Do you teach?

Here at home I'll teach mainly friends or friends of friends, or family. I give one or two workshops a year, but it's tough to do them because it takes a week to get ready, then I'm there and I go extremely hard. Then it seems like it's a week to recover with the family before I'm back on my normal game.

What does the possibility of legalization mean to the glass community?

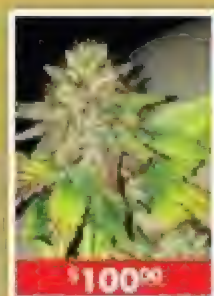
We're all on the edge of our seats, as glassblowers. Legalization, with corporate interests, big money and media, they'll try to make a star out of



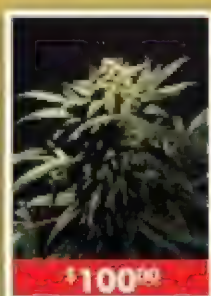
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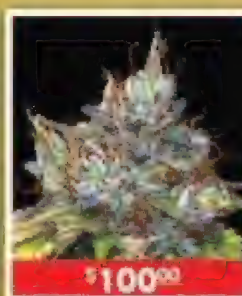
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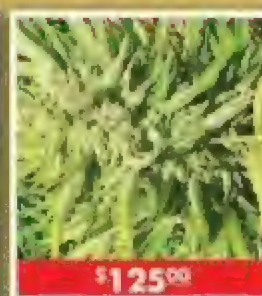
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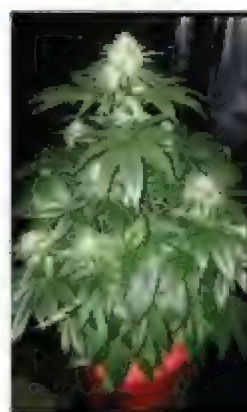
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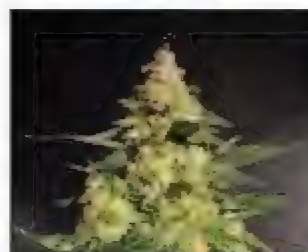
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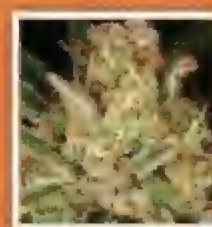
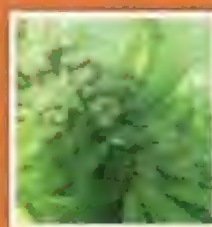
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anybody they can for whatever reasons. Usually when pop culture sets its sights on a countercultural movement, or an upstart group of hip artists, you hear what's important to these groups of people. What's exciting is the maturity level of our scene. We aren't a bunch of teenagers with nothing to say. We have families; we've lived life. We have things that might be useful for the rest of the tribe.

What would that be for you?

I've raised my family naturally and consciously; all six of my kids were born at home. We eat organic food and back progressive politics. With the increasing coverage that comes from more exposure, we get to talk about stuff we find important: personal growth, acceptance and compassion—all of the things that we hold dear. I'm working to make this crystal-healing, tree-hugging, dirt-worshipping way I'm living cool again. My wife and I have talked about it and we've come to realize that we've just hit 40 and we've gained a lot of wisdom and skills in our 20 years together—a really crazy 20 years—raising six kids, blowing glass, living in the woods and being deep into the marijuana culture. We've healed a lot of wounds in ourselves that we probably inherited from our culture. There's a saying: "Only by subjecting yourself to annihilation over and over again do you find in you that which is indestructible."

By having six kids, we've destroyed ourselves in beautiful ways time and again. At 40, we're just emerging from this amazing journey and finding strengths within ourselves. We want to provide an example.

I have no interest in being famous for the sake of it, but I'm always pushed forward by my work. For years, I thought it was just my nature to keep pushing. I've pushed deeper into the creative territory of my own mind but, time and

time again, it's taken away from other aspects of my life—my relationships with my kids, my relationships with my wife, friends.

So it's been this balance my whole career. What am I doing all this for? I have bills to pay, so there's a certain amount of glassblowing that has to happen to be back with my family living my life.

But why do I keep going? I just refinanced my house. I could semi-retire pretty easily, but I'm still driving. Until now, I've been serving the path of self, which includes my family and my family's needs.

So after 16 and a half years, I've come around full circle where, personally and artistically, all those needs have been met and the desire to choose the path of serving others is getting stronger. My wife and I feel a responsibility to share what we know with the younger generation because we see ourselves as conscious parents. We've learned, through trial and error, ways of being that were probably pioneered in the 60s and 70s by the first wave of psychedelic explorers. By the time I hit the Rainbow Gathering, I was able to inherit the summation of combined wisdom of 30 years of the counterculture movement. I'm working to reinvigorate those ways of thinking.

This is what I'm marketing. I view my glass as a plate I can serve a ministry on... and for me this means parenting, and radical self-inquiry.

Family is the number one thing that's always driven me to work so hard... paying for them, providing a life for them where they can eat healthy foods, not having to go to an overcrowded public school. That's been the main driver for what I've done: raising healthy, whole kids who know their true worth. Now, that I've lived it, I want to present a viable way to live for people. ✨

Check out Banjo's gallery of work at hightimes.com.



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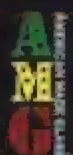
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SUBJECT **Heart-Racing *Sativas***
FROM **George B.**

I've heard stories of people having a pounding or racing heart rate from smoking marijuana. While it's never happened to me, I'm interested since I recently turned 50 and there is a history of heart disease in my family. I will be traveling to California in two weeks and hope to enjoy opportunities that are not available in my home state of Indiana.

Dear George,
There are indeed some strains of marijuana that can have this "heart-racing" effect. Typically, they are the *sativa*-dominant strains such as Super Silver Haze, Jack Herer, Nigerian Silk or Blue Dream. If you're worried about the effects and looking to avoid them, then do not purchase and consume *sativa*-dominant strains. Stick to *indica*-dominant hybrids.

Danko Tip: Always quarantine any new clones coming into your grow space in a separate area to prevent pests and pathogens.



SUBJECT: **Seeds Sprouted - Now What?**

FROM: **WNYsmokeybear**

I am a first-time grower in western New York State that decided to take a chance and throw a couple of seeds in this flower pot I had sitting around. I was late getting a start because it was mid-July when I gave the experiment a try. Now I have these two plants and I realize that I need to transplant one into its own pot. These plants and this container have sat on my deck the entire time.

On a sunny day, they receive at least 9 hours of direct sunlight before the shade of my trees takes over the deck. I haven't started any type of feeding regiment other than watering daily. At this point, other than the transplanting, I was wondering where I should go from here. I'm also looking to start a small grow space in a closet

in my basement and was unsure about my needs. Plus, if these two plants could be moved to the indoor space, and what effects would they bring.

Dear WNYsmokeybear,
If you wish to continue growing your plants outdoors, you need to transplant them into their own containers and consider moving them to a sunnier spot. You don't want the roots competing with each other for resources and the plants competing for any light. Nine hours is decent but they'll grow better under more direct sunlight for a longer period of time. You'll also need to start feeding them some form of plant food at some point during their growth. If you plan on bringing them inside, you need to get a grow-light and find a place where you can keep them that won't get too hot and

stuffy. Whether indoors or out, it's important not to interrupt the darkness during the night once the plant has begun flowering.

SUBJECT: **Straight Flush**

FROM: **Peter B.**

I belong to a group of medical growers in Massachusetts. Many of us are fairly new to indoor growing. There's been debate amongst us about whether or not to flush, and whether it is necessary at all.

We have a grower that says if you starve them of nutrient the last two weeks that the plant will pull all its nutrient to the roots instead of to the flowers. His idea is, it doesn't matter if you're organic or not, there is no need to flush. If cannabis were an annual rather than a perennial, I could understand that logic. But being a perennial, it makes more sense to me that this would not happen, since the plant "knows" it isn't coming back next year. So I guess the question is, does the plant push the roots instead of the flowers when you flush? I have to admit, I did my first grow without flushing, and it tasted a little off, though it was decent in the end.

I've seen an article you wrote about flushing, and it seems you think it is a good idea, but I am hoping you can clear up this point of contention between the bunch of us, so that we may stop talking about it and move on to other things with our grows.

Dear Peter,

Flushing, the process by which we use plain pH-balanced water to leach out excess nutrients, is done in order to make the finished product burn properly as well as smell and taste better. I find it to be absolutely essential if you're planning to burn or vape the flowers you grow. Furthermore, when we are judging strains for Cannabis Cups, the "burnability" is one of the factors that set certain growers apart.

You are also confusing the terms annual and perennial. Cannabis is an annual, meaning that, in the wild, the plant and roots die off every year and go to seed in order to propagate. Perennials go dormant in the winter and return in the spring from the same root system. The bottom line is that cannabis plants and roots die off and therefore don't need to store nutrients for future growth.



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Danko Tip: Instead of harvesting all at once, you can cut off top buds when ready and work your way down the plant as it ripens.



SUBJECT: **Hash Leaves**

FROM: **C. D.**

I've seen a few videos on making hash from trimmings and it looks like it takes quite a bit of trimmings to make it worth the time and effort. I'm a beginner grower (and I mean about to start my first grow within the next two weeks) but I will only be growing 1-2 plants per grow due to space issues. Can I keep and store my trimmings until I have enough to make my hash, and if so, how would I keep them so they don't lose all that goodness? Thanks!

Dear C.D.,

The amount of trimmings you'll produce from just a couple of plants in a small space will not produce very much hash at all. If you'd like to store the trimmings from multiple grows, freeze the trim in a light-tight bag and keep them in the freezer until you plan to make the hash.

You can also consider cooking with the trimmings to make a cannabis-infused edible product and you may get more bang for your buck that way. If you're patient however, you will eventually accumulate enough trimmings to make hashish with so you will want to decide if you want to use the dry sifting method or ice-water hashish extraction. Either way, nothing beats a packed bowl of your own hand-made glandular trichome essential oil concoction!

SUBJECT: **Vegging Near the Equator**

FROM: **Karl**

I live in Costa Rica and without supplemental light, plants only get about 18-24" tall due to the fact that we receive approximately 12 hours of sunlight and they go into flower immediately. My question

DON'T LET YOUR JOB GO UP IN SMOKE!

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Danko Tip: An oscillating fan placed at canopy level helps keep air near plants from getting stagnant.

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is: how did the Colombian we used to get in the mid-late 70s get so tall and produce such nice buds? Their amount of daylight is similar to ours. I remember seeing stalks that had to come from 6-foot-tall plants.

Dear Karl,

There are several reasons that the Colombian *sativas* you were getting back in the days were sizable plants. Equatorial *sativa*-dominant plants continue to grow beyond just their vegetative stage and well into their flowering stage. So, these plants keep growing while they are forming flowers.

Also, many of the clandestine farms grow at higher altitudes in the mountains and hills of Colombia and they're positioning on a hillside can extend their vegetative times by increasing the amount of sunlight they receive per day. Growing seasons can be extended through light supplementation during vegetative growth as well.

SUBJECT: Getting A Pot Job

FROM: Charlie

I am a grower (self-taught) living in a state (Don't know if I should include my state) where marijuana is completely illegal. My ultimate goal is to become a legal grower, whether that's waiting for my state to legalize cannabis or moving to a legal state just to get involved. I'd say I have begun to get into advanced growing techniques (e.g., studying up on cross-breeding, advanced botany).

I have so many questions, I don't know where to begin. I guess I'll start with... What are the "essentials" that every legal professional grower should know? I know there is no end for the thirst of knowledge but I have to believe there is a legal grower out there with less knowledge than me.


Should I have some actual educational courses under my belt if I do move to a legal state? If I don't get an education in cannabis, how do I relay my knowledge of the industry to companies looking to hire? Would they even hire an out-of-state guy who just has illegal grow experience (+/- 10 crops)?

Dear Charlie,

As far as the essentials, a proper understanding of how plants grow and especially how cannabis plants grow is very important. Another very important thing to understand is that problems grow exponentially as growrooms get bigger. An expert at a 10-light garage grow is likely to have trouble handling their first 100-light warehouse grow. Heat, pests, mold and mildew – all of the issues become more difficult to deal with as you expand your operation.

Many places in legal states now have courses that you can take and a certification process that can help you learn and get a job in the cultivation industry. Oaksterdam University is one such place in California but others exist. Do some research to make sure the one you're interested in attending is legit and worth the money.

My last bit of advice is to not be afraid to start at the bottom, working as a trimmer, janitor or helper/assistant. Smart companies promote and hire from within and you'll gain a better understanding of how things work without the intense pressure of being in charge right away. Good luck! 🌿

A black Aurora Dr. Dabber pen stands vertically on the left side of the image. The pen has the brand name 'dr. dabber' and 'aurora' printed on it. To the right of the pen, there are several red horseshoe magnets and a stack of black cylindrical magnets. The background is a blurred laboratory setting with glassware. The overall theme is 'The Science of Attraction', as indicated by the text and the physics equation.

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2



2



4



Hot Products

What's new for cannabis cultivators and connoisseurs

1 Microbial Activity

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Marijuana growers are always looking for ways to reduce their use of amendments. Now, from the world of golf(!), where groundkeepers are seeking more sustainability, comes the SC27 Plus Organic from Sepixa, an OMRI-listed concentrated soil inoculant that contains 50 strains of microbes and beneficial bacteria. Using this wettable powder on your soil will save water and increase root biomass and plant health substantially.

2 Shelf Storage

\$200
stormebud.com

Air, light and heat can all take away from the potency, flavor and enjoyment of your bud. The new StorMe-Bud "book" sits discreetly on a bookshelf, hiding in plain sight while keeping your stash airtight in a cool, dark place. The hardwood case has brass hinges and a magnetic catch and stores six separate sealable glass jars, each capable of holding 7 to 14 grams of flowers.

3 Hot Knives

\$75
highknife.com

Seeking a Swiss Army-style knife specially designed for stylish stoners? Look no further than the High Knife, an ingenious and discreet tool that contains everything you need for a smoking good time. It includes a large and small knife, can opener, pipe and poker, toothpick, bottle opener, corkscrew, tweezer and roach clip. Snag one for yourself and you'll see why they call it "the knife of the party."

4 Wetting Agent

Prices vary
advancednutrients.com

Have you ever watered your plants and seen the liquid sit on top of your soil mix without becoming properly absorbed? Try Wet Betty from Advanced Nutrients, an organic, non-ionic surfactant that will lower the surface tension of your solution for better absorption. Whether you're foliar-feeding or drenching your soil, "wetter" water results in stronger, more efficient nutrient uptake and bigger yields.

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bunch of dill over the top. Pour the vodka over all of it, spreading it out so the filet gets covered in vodka. Pull up the excess plastic wrap to tightly wrap the salmon. Press down and cover with a large plate for weight so that the salmon “cooks” in the vodka-and-herb mixture. Refrigerate for 24 to 48 hours, turning every six to eight hours so that both sides are exposed to the liquid and ingredients.

Remove from the plastic wrap, remove the dill, and scrape off any excess cure. (You can optionally rinse the salmon.) Use a very sharp knife to slice the salmon into thin pieces, then serve.

Sinsemilla Smoked Salmon

Get baked on salmon with this delicious recipe perfect for the holidays.

By Cheri Sicard

I was curious if I could medicate gravlax, the Scandinavian-style cured salmon. Since gravlax is cured with vodka, I figured this would work well, because people make cannabis tinctures with vodka and other alcoholic beverages—and I’m happy to report that it was a success!

I tested this recipe two ways: using decarboxylated flowers on half of a filet, and decarboxylated kief on the other half. As for effects and flavor, both worked well—the kief side, naturally, had slightly less cannabis flavor, but neither version was overpowering. By the time we piled slices of the cured salmon on bagels along with cream cheese, sliced tomatoes and red onions, the cannabis flavor wasn’t noticeable at all.

Adjust the amounts of cannabis you use depending on the size of your salmon filet. Ours was about 2 pounds, and we planned to yield about 10 servings from that.

2 bunches fresh dill
1 large boneless, skin-on salmon filet, about 2 lbs.
1/8 cup coarse sea salt or kosher salt
1/8 cup brown sugar
2 tbsp. crushed peppercorns
6 grams ground decarboxylated cannabis flowers (or 4 grams decarboxylated kief)
1/4 cup vodka

Lay out a long sheet of plastic wrap on the bottom of a large casserole dish, using two or three sheets if necessary to cover, and leaving 4 inches for overhang on each end. Spread one bunch of dill over the bottom of the pan and place the salmon on top of it in the plastic-lined dish, skin-side down.

Mix together the salt, sugar, crushed peppercorns, and ground marijuana or kief. Spread this mixture over the skinless side of the salmon. Spread the other



Wake and Bake: The Cannabis Gourmet Cookbook

This book has over 25 recipes for cannabis-infused brunch dishes, which means you’ll greet the morning with enthusiasm! Offering everything from buzzy eggs benedict with medicated Hollandaise sauce, to breakfast sausages spiced with cannabis flowers, to crazy quiches and high huevos rancheros, this e-book from prolific cannabis cook Cheri Sicard is a fun addition to your library. cannabischeri.com

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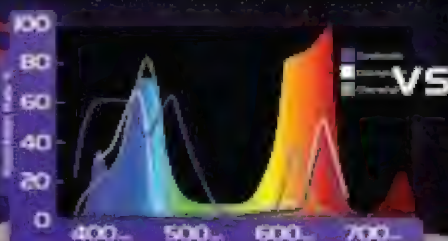
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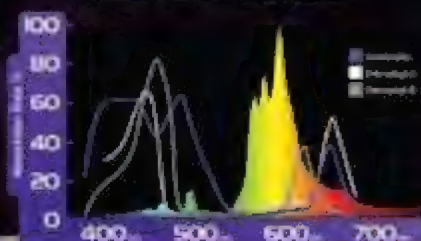
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cannabis cake to go

Bite-size cake pops and truffles deliver satisfying doses of THC along with indulgent flavors. *By Elise McDonough*

Chocolate Turtle Cake Pop

Mixed with chocolate caramel cannabis buttercream, this moist cake is coated in semi-sweet chocolate and dipped in chopped pecans. Miss Mary Jane delivers a deliciously dosed bite, available with either 60 mg or 120 mg of THC. Find these treats at finer dispensaries in Southern California. missmaryjanesedibles.com

Ice Cream Cone Cake Pops

Delightfully decorated, these cake pops are disguised as mini ice cream cones! Infused with high doses of solventless ice water hash and baked with mostly organic ingredients, Starfire Edibles specializes in medicated doughnuts along with these creative cake pops that range from 75 to 250 mg of THC for those with an immense tolerance for weed food. *Instagram: @starfire.edibles*

Red Velvet Cake Truffle

Hand-crafted with no preservatives, the Nutty Baker delivers sublime cake truffles dosed at 25 mg of THC each. Try the assorted package, which contains Red Velvet, Mint Chip, Chocolate Chip, and Vanilla cake truffles for 100 mg total. Available at Northern California dispensaries, these treats are sure to please! *Instagram: @thenuttybakercalifornia*

Vanilla Sativa Cake Pop

Dosed with 80 mg of THC from CO₂ oil, these vanilla cake pops have so little of a cannabis taste that you can barely tell they're medicated! Pollen Nation garnishes each cake pop with granules of bee pollen, and both chocolate and vanilla flavors come in either *sativa* or *indica* varieties for daytime or nighttime use. Look for these cake pops in Santa Cruz and San Francisco Bay Area dispensaries. pollennation.buzz

Caramel Chocolate Cake Balls

These gluten-free cake balls taste amazingly moist and sumptuous, plus each ball contains 30 mg of THC in either *indica* or *sativa* options. Available in a wide variety of inventive flavors such as Pink Lemonade, Peanut Butter Cup and Maple Pecan Coconut, these cake balls are truly for those in high society! Look for High Society gluten-free cake balls in Southern California dispensaries. *Instagram: @highsocietycakeballs*

Flavor of the Month



Marijuana Mini-Muffins

Designed for those with a high THC tolerance, these bite-size baked goods deliver a hefty dose.

Featured as one of our "10 Extremely Potent Cannabis Edibles" online at hightimes.com, these mini-muffins from Topanga Harvest Company greatly impressed reviewer Cheri Sicard, who wrote: "With a nice fruity flavor, the blueberry variety wasn't overly sweet and barely tasted of cannabis at all."

The muffins come in THC doses of 35 and 50 mg, and the flavors include blueberry, red velvet, banana nut and lemon cake. It's easy to titrate your dose by eating just a few of these tiny muffins—but they taste so good, you'll be tempted to eat more! *Instagram: @topangaharvestco*

They Put Pot in What Now?!



Hippie Speedballs Made Easy

Take the edge off your morning caffeine dose with THC.

Cannabis and coffee are a classic combination with a rich history that goes all the way back to the infamous Club des Hashischins in Paris circa the 1840s. Accomplished intellectuals and artists, including Balzac, Dumas and Baudelaire, would gather to imbibe coffee infused with crumbled hash, inspiring lofty conversation and improvisational poetry.

Updated for modern sensibilities, Pot O' Coffee accomplishes the same effect with cannabis-infused K-cups that blend CBD and THC with coffee, green tea and chocolate cocoa in measured doses of 10, 50 and 100 mg. Find these cannabis coffee pods in California, with expansion coming soon to Colorado, Washington, Oregon and Nevada, and start your own cannabis coffee klatch! potocoffee.coffee

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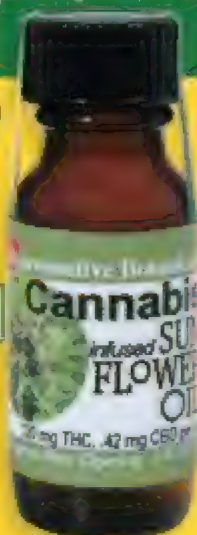
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Toker Truths

Diabetes, how to legalize, pot use per capita and overdose deaths.

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Can cannabis help diabetes?

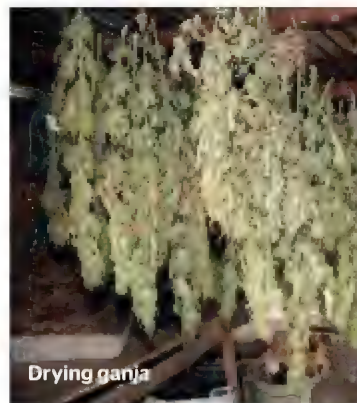
Larry K. Sweets

Hi Larry,
Eight studies have shown that regular users are less likely to have diabetes, but the link could be spurious. The association doesn't mean that cannabis would actually help how we metabolize sugar. A munchie-induced muffin binge could be hellish on insulin levels. However, we do know that cannabis can help with the neuropathic pain often associated with diabetes.

I heard that more people die from prescription meds than from weed. Is this a true fact, or just hippie propaganda?

Curious George

Hi CG,
Never badmouth hippie propaganda! In 2103 (the latest data available), the US government's own Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported about 16,000 deaths from prescription-drug overdose and *zero* deaths from cannabis. The stats are buried on the CDC's website (cdc.gov/nchs/deaths.htm).



What might convince prohibitionists that we can handle a legal market?

Lance Persuader

Hello Lance,
Although my free-market libertarian pals will scream, we could promise to keep pot advertisements limited, ensure that only adults get access, and keep prices below the underground market's cost. If parents don't have to worry about their kids seeing ads for "DABS" at the corner store or tricking a dispensary owner with a fake ID, they'll feel better about voting for tax-and-regulate. But if we don't keep prices low, folks will stick with their unlicensed dealer. It doesn't sound like perfect freedom, but it's an approach with good chances. 🌿

Dr. Mitch Earleywine, PhD, is the author of *Understanding Marijuana* and *The Parents' Guide to Marijuana*.

Does Jamaica have the most tokers?

Steve Miller

Hi Steve,
Countries with the highest total number of users are generally those with the most people. Identifying which country has the highest *percentage* of users can be more informative. Jamaica's in the top 10, with about 10 percent of people using, according to United Nations data. But Iceland (18 percent), Zambia (18 percent) and the United States (15 percent) lead the world. Even Canada (12 percent) surpasses Jamaica in terms of pot use.



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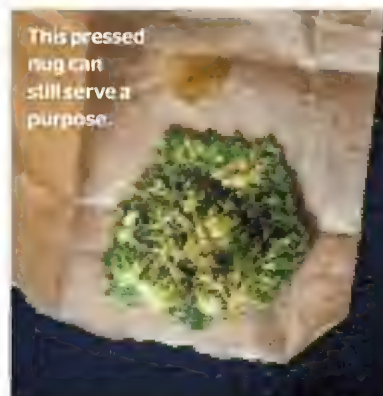
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After the Squeezing Is Done

What to do with your spent buds after pressing for rosin dabs. *By Craig Coffey*



Cannabinoid Therapy for Pets

Low-dose cannabis therapy is a great way to help what ails an aging pet. Just like us, dogs and cats can get great analgesic relief, sleep aid and appetite stimulation from consuming THC. Use your spent herb to infuse coconut oil as described above and put a half-teaspoon in your pet's food. Remember, most pets have *much* less body weight than people, so a little can go a long way. Start with very small doses and work your way up as needed. Your old pets will sleep better, eat better and feel less pain in their aging joints.

Make Cannabis-Infused Soap

There are many recipes online for making soap at home. The basics go like this: Combine water, lye and oil by dissolving the lye in the water (while following the safety tips for this step!) and then adding it to your oil. In this case, use squeezed herbs to infuse coconut oil, then use the infused oil in a basic soap recipe. Your skin is full of cannabinoid receptors, and medicated soap is another way to enjoy the benefits of cannabis.

Compassion Joints

You squeezed your buds and have lots of great rosin to smoke. So why not pass the leftovers along to the truly needy? Everyone knows someone who is down on their luck, financially challenged or unable to make ends meet. Lots of older people are on very fixed incomes but desperately need the relief and joy that cannabis brings. We challenge you to be compassionate—roll those squished buds up and give them to someone in need. One person's waste can be another person's salvation. The smile you get after you hand someone a dozen free rolled joints is priceless. ✨

REGULAR READERS OF the *High Times* Dab Report likely already know about squeezing buds to make rosin—perhaps you currently practice this technique yourself. The uninitiated should check hightimes.com for details on the rosin technique, but the gist is that you apply heat and pressure to weed and hash oozes out. It's a safe and easy way for anyone with cannabis and a hair iron to make some tasty dabs.

More weed is now getting pressed into hash than you can imagine; commercial operations alone are pressing thousands of pounds of cannabis into rosin dabs every year, plus home users are increasingly experimenting with this method. But what happens to all that pot after it's been pressed? Are you guys just throwing it away? We hope not.

Here are a few options for what to do with your rosin waste after the squeezing is done.

Make Edibles or Topicals

The process of making rosin hash doesn't remove all the THC from your buds. It does, however, decarboxylate the cannabis you're squeezing. That makes it perfect for creating edibles and topicals, which require decarbed weed. Put your squeezed buds into some coconut or olive oil and bring it up to about 180°F for an hour. You can use this oil in food or on your skin as a topical medicine.

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NORML's New Era

The new acting executive director of NORML introduces himself.

Randy Quast is the acting executive director of NORML. Visit norml.org.

IN LATE JUNE, longtime NORML executive director Allen St. Pierre tendered his resignation. He will be missed.

My name is Randy Quast. I'm currently NORML's treasurer and a member of the board. I'll be serving as the acting executive director while the board conducts the search for our new executive director.

I'm from Minnesota. My background is in business. I worked my way up in trucking, starting with my family's small 10-employee trucking company in the 1980s. I worked in various departments and eventually became president and CEO in 1988. By the time I sold the company 10 years later, it employed 700 people in 23 service centers across 10 Midwestern states and had revenues of over \$50 million a year.

After retiring, I turned my love of flying into 2,500 flight-hours spent volunteering myself and my airplane to AirLifeLine to fly patients who couldn't afford commercial flights to receive medical treatments. I eventually became president and CEO of that nonprofit, until we merged with another similar nonprofit. The combined companies still operate today under the name Angel Flight.

Throughout my previous careers, I'd



always been a regular marijuana consumer—a “corporate stoner”—but kept that information private. It wasn't until 2007 that I was forced out of the cannabis closet.

One evening, I went out for dinner. While I was gone, a thief broke into my home and

dragged my safe, where I stored my pot, out the back door. When my neighbors confronted him, the thief ran, leaving the safe in my backyard.

When I returned, there were police cars all around my house. I'd left an aluminum one-hitter in the bathroom, which spurred the cops' suspicions about what was in my safe, which led to a search warrant and a SWAT raid on my home. The three ounces in my safe led to a felony possession charge.

Because I was fortunate enough to be a white person and able to afford an attorney, I received a stay of adjudication with two years' probation. When my probation ended in 2009, I attended my first NORML conference in Portland, Oregon. I returned home and started Minnesota NORML the following year. In 2015, I moved to Oregon and co-founded

Portland NORML.

Now I'm in Washington, DC, working with National NORML to continue the fight for legalization in places like Minnesota, but also working to expand the rights of legal cannabis consumers in places like Oregon.

We're supporting our chapters and grassroots advocates in California, Arizona, Nevada, Missouri, Massachusetts and Maine as they push for legalization in 2016, and we're supporting our chapters and advocates in Florida, Arkansas, Montana and North Dakota as they fight to protect medical marijuana patients from arrest. And we continue to support our chapters in every state, which still fight to end the arrest and persecution of responsible adult marijuana consumers.

We're also working with members of Congress to pass the bills needed to secure banking and tax relief for our legal marijuana industries.

It's a new era for NORML. The last 10 major public-opinion polls show the nation believes that marijuana should be legal. We're now fighting for *true* normalization, where marijuana is no more shocking—or discriminated against—than a cigar or a glass of scotch. I'm excited to do my part to make NORML the best organization it can be. I hope you'll join me. 🌿

FREEDOM FIGHTER

A Force in Missouri

A paramilitary-style raid causes Trish Bertrand to become a fierce cannabis advocate.

In May 2010, Trish Bertrand was thrust into the world of marijuana activism after experiencing a traumatizing paramilitary-style raid executed by law-enforcement agents at her family-owned business. Cops discovered 47 marijuana plants that Trish's husband, Daryl, was growing for medicinal purposes.

Daryl became wheelchair-bound following a battle with a spinal disease. Pharmaceutical muscle relaxers and pain medication created a dependency that had spawned severe liver issues. Daryl decided to use medical marijuana to manage his chronic pain. Unfortunately, the state of Missouri didn't agree with this decision.

Trish was arrested. Sitting in her jail cell, she vowed to do whatever she could to prevent others from



experiencing similar horrific treatment. She became an active member of Springfield, Missouri's NORML chapter, where her hard work and dedication were quickly recognized, and she was eventually named executive director.

Trish has made sure that her chapter focuses on community-engagement projects such as hosting quarterly street cleanups, participating in local charity events and raising money for medical research. In addition to her work

on the local level, she's secured a board position with Show Me Cannabis, a statewide effort aimed at legalizing medical marijuana on Election Day.

“Arresting adults for possessing plant material, placing them in cages, tearing their families apart, and using the criminal-justice system to force them into a medical treatment that they don't need is immoral,” Trish says firmly. “We, the people, have the ability to unite and right these wrongs. There has never been a better time to do so!”

By Kevin Mahmalji, NORML national outreach coordinator



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Liz oversees the Greenwolf LA operation.



GREENWOLF ON THE PROWL

At Greenwolf LA, one of the city's top dispensaries, general manager Liz eyes the future.

Greenwolf L.A. has an outstanding reputation for top-quality products. What's your secret?

I think we have the best outreach to the public. We don't sell products that don't actually work. We test everything—not lab tests—we actually have people try our products. If they don't do what they're supposed to do, they don't get sold in our store.

Explain what you mean by "outreach."

We have 83,000 social media followers and we're known to have quality products, so people in the industry would love to be able to launch their product at our store. If we accept them, they'll go to other stores and say Greenwolf is carrying them.

It's an easier sell for them. We're very selective on who we allow in.

You've won more Cannabis Cups than any other entity in the industry.

We just try to surround ourselves with the best. The people who do our outsourcing are all connoisseurs.

Before we enter the Cup, we hold a pre-Cup event of our own. We may have 12 items, but only enter two or three. We taste 'em, look at 'em, and smell 'em and make sure they're worthy of the Cannabis Cup.

We try to keep about 15 strains on the shelves. We have products from Cali Kush Farms, DNA, Jungle Boys, Cannabiotics—several others.

How big is the Greenwolf staff?

We have about 20 employees on-site. And we have three of the pickiest connoisseur flower packers that you could possibly ever find. Nothing goes onto the floor that shouldn't.

Do you solicit top producers or do they come to you?

It's a combination. We have an extensive network. People hear about us through Instagram or through an event—word of mouth. Sometimes we have a reputation for not even considering some products, but that's not the case. We have to continue to be selective and keep our standards high. We go with a boutique setup. It can be overwhelming when a store has 30 to 40 strains. We prefer to

have 12 to 18 top-notch strains that people can count on.

If AUMA, the California legalization initiative, passes, what would it mean for Greenwolf?

Well, there are a couple different viewpoints because a lot of stuff isn't clear. Obviously, tourists wouldn't need medical cards, so that would enhance our business greatly. Anyone 21 and over could just walk in. But the thing is there are a thousand shops in the LA area that are operating illegally and 134 operating legally, paying taxes and under city scrutiny. Will they shut down the illegal ones in order to maximize their tax dollars? Business could potentially increase ten times, if



The thriving dispensary requires a staff of over 20 employees.

Through its successful collaborations, Greenwolf LA has won more Cannabis Cups than any other US company.



those shops are shut down.

With legalization and actual licenses to cultivate, process, distribute, transport and dispense on the retail level, there will have to be a marijuana enforcement division as in Colorado or Washington. Right now, nobody's enforcing the industry. Business should go to the legal shops who pay taxes and who have track-and-trace programming of their product.

The legal shops have formed the UCBA Trade Association. With the amount of money at stake in this industry, we have an association with one voice.

What is the goal of the UCBA?

UCBA is a trade association comprised of over 40 medical marijuana dispensary owners, along with top marijuana attorneys and lobbyists. We've

written a new ordinance that we're presenting to the city. It's as if to say, "Hey, we're already doing business the best way we know. Here are answers to problems and questions that you may not even be aware of."

We've each committed \$30,000 for signature gathering and campaigning. We'll have \$1.2 million in order to get the signatures needed to put

We have to continue to be selective and keep our standards high.

the initiative on the ballot in March 2017. The goal is to preserve the "Prop D" Pre-ICO dispensaries and to open up the industry to other cannabis businesses including additional dispensaries, cultivators, manufacturers, testing labs, distributors and transporters to bring Los Angeles in full alignment with the state licensing that will be available in 2018.

This is our main focus besides running the store: trying to ensure our future and really solidify Greenwolf. We don't want to license the name and our expertise to other people. We'd like to be able to do it on our own.

We need a true license for marijuana production and sale. Right now, we have Prop D limited immunity—an acknowledgement from the City of Los Angeles that we are allowed to operate so long as we meet multiple criteria, but it's not a license.

This is actually about the California Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MCRSA), which passed earlier this year. California, in 1996, was the first state to pass medical marijuana laws and we are the most chaotic. For 20 years, there's been no license issued by the state to operate a cannabis business. There's no system. You don't have to test your product, you can buy from any vendor (so long as they are a patient of your collective). It's you know, a pretty chaotic system. The new MCRSA laws will mean state licensing, and you'll have to have a local license before you get a state license. We want a license from the City of Los Angeles, so that when 2018 comes around, we can really be official. ●

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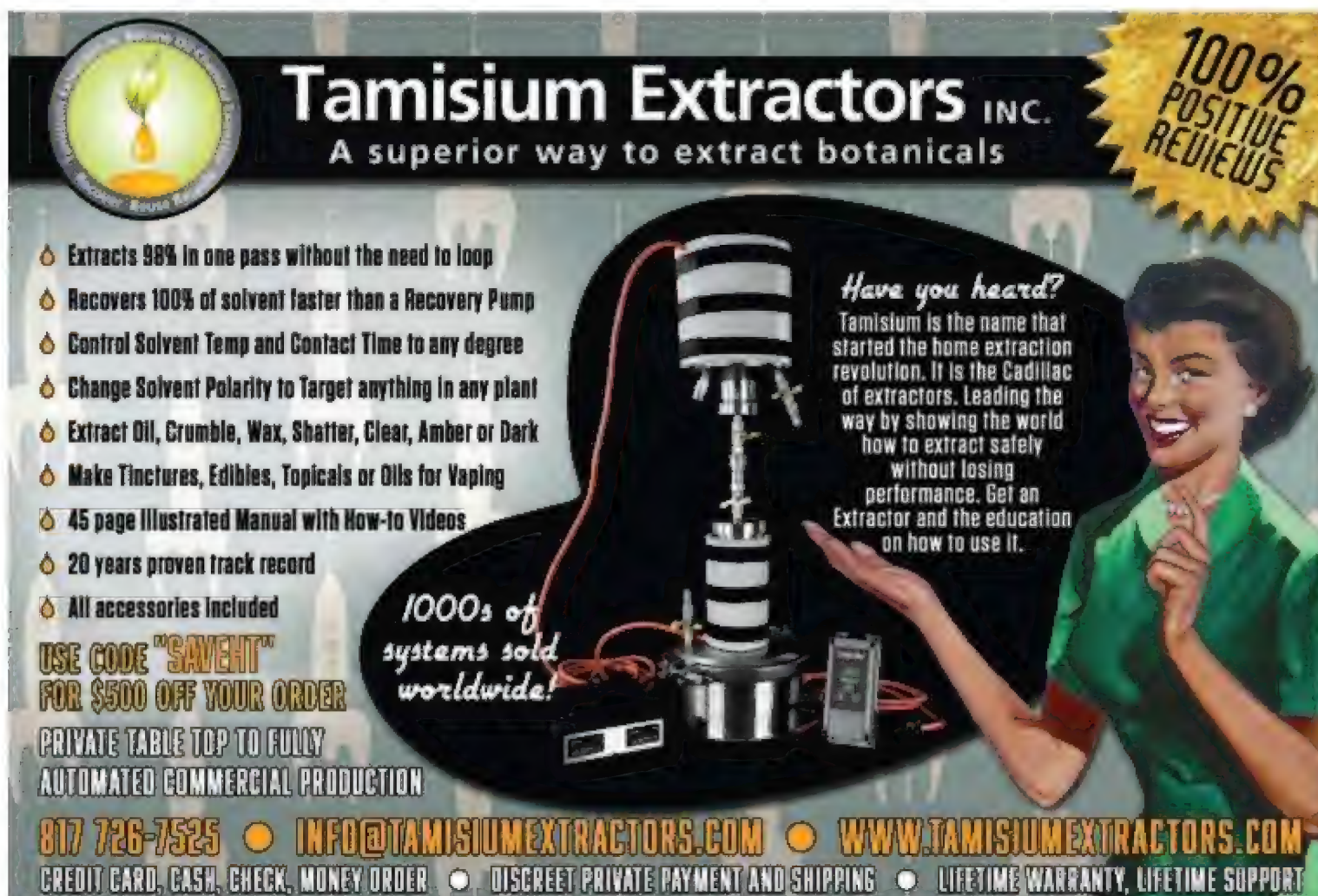
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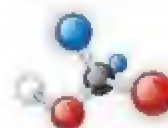
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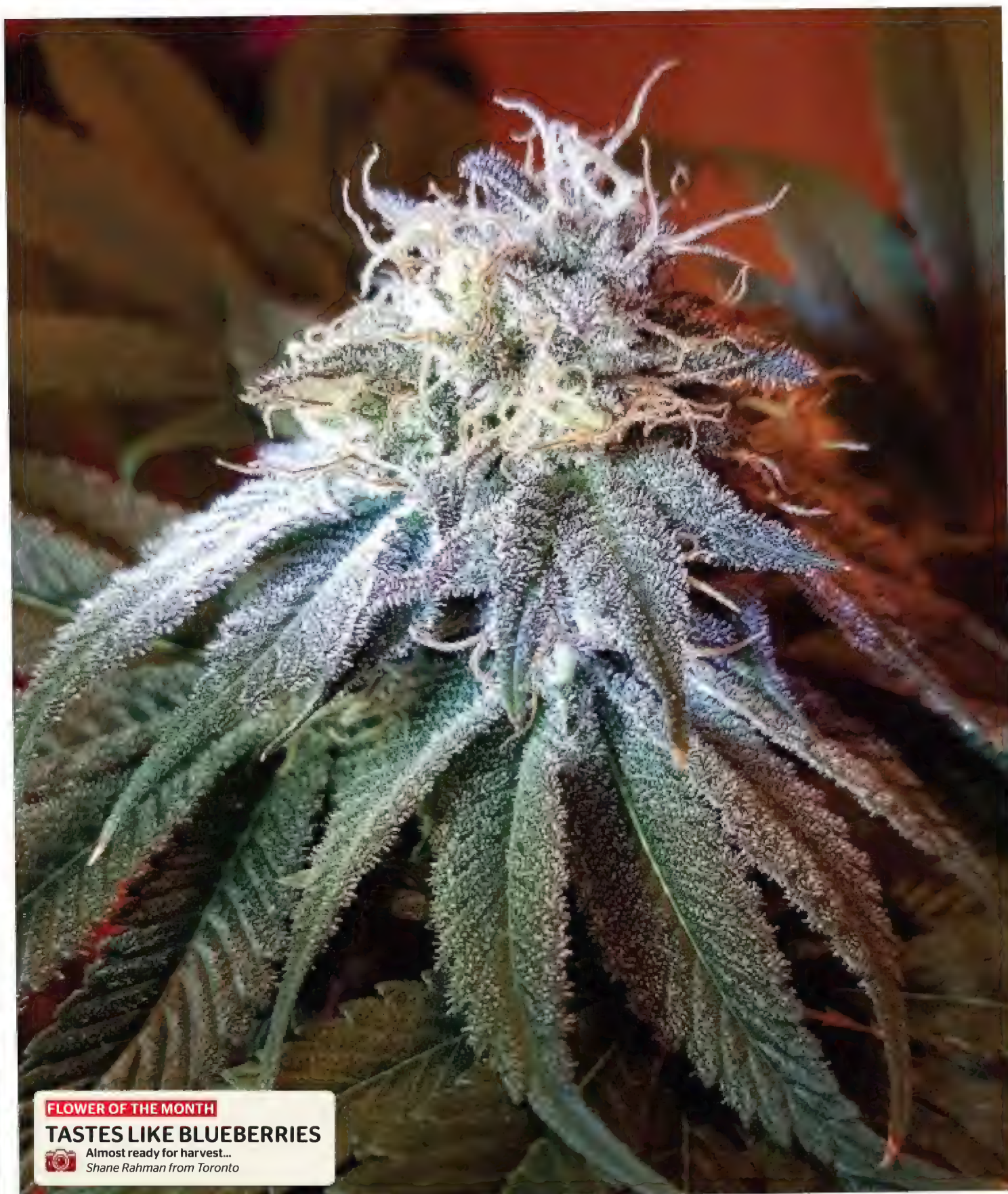
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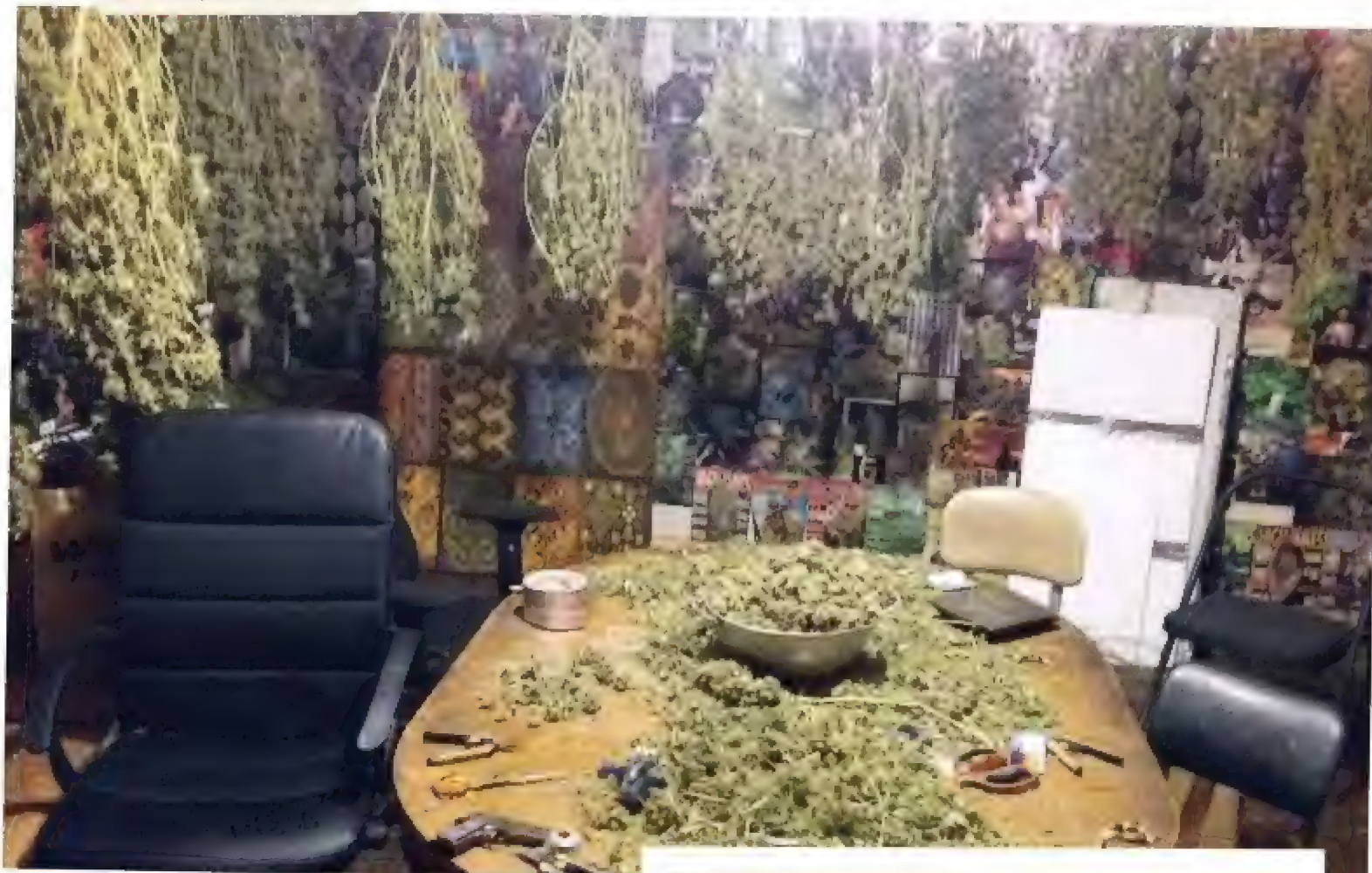
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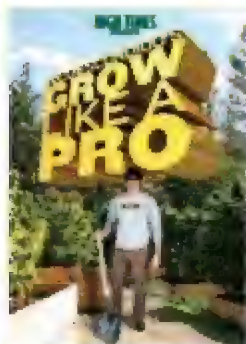
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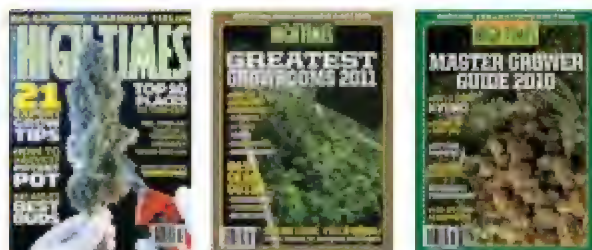
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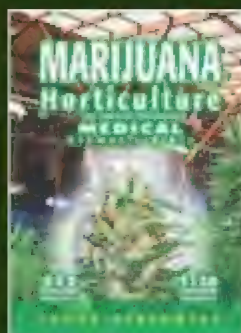


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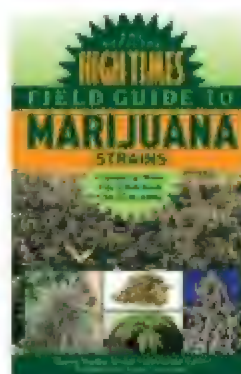


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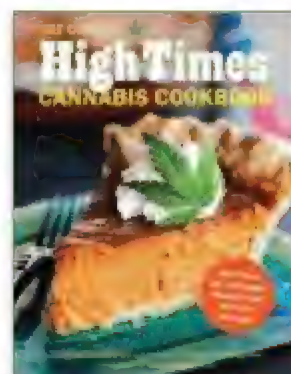


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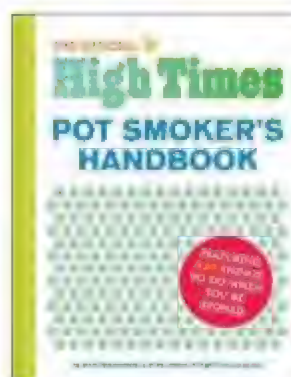
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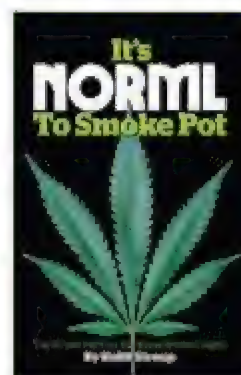
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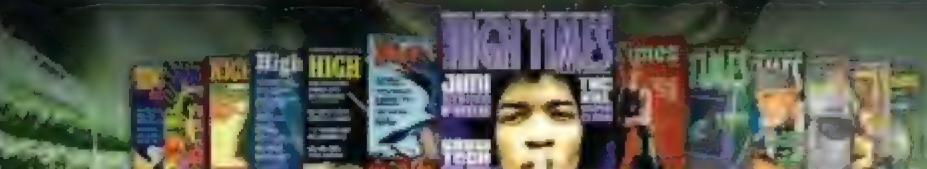
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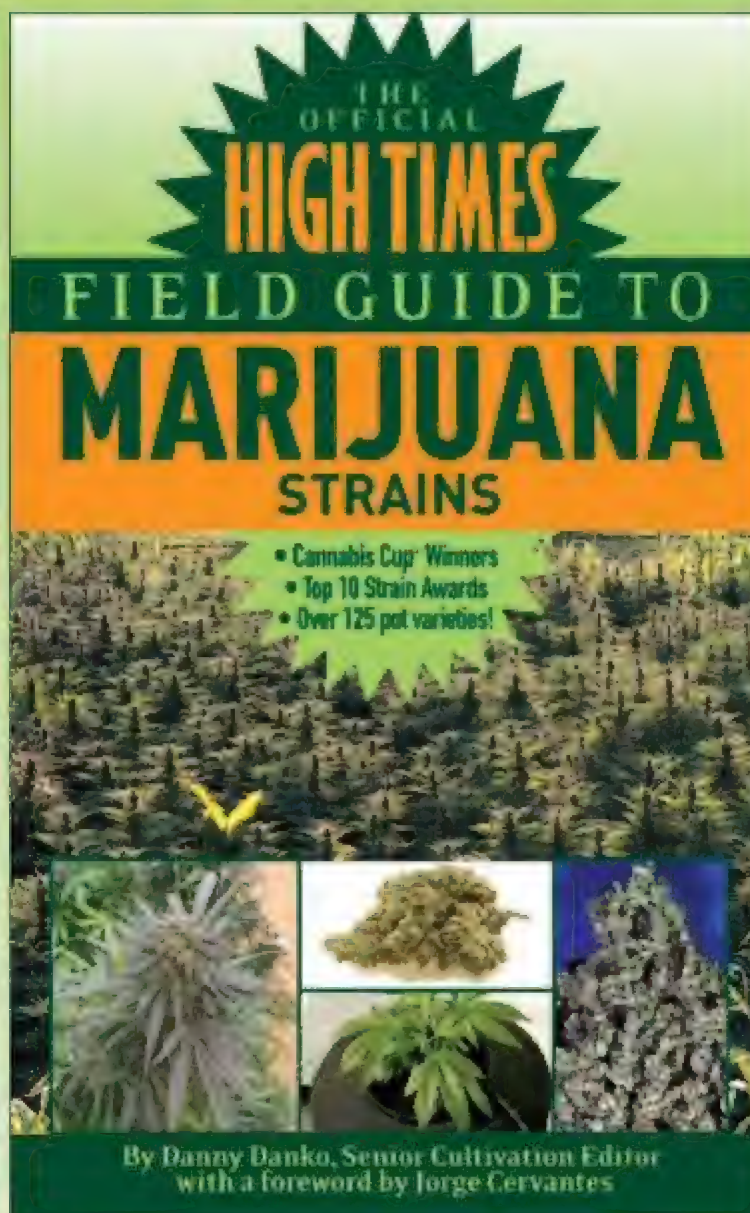
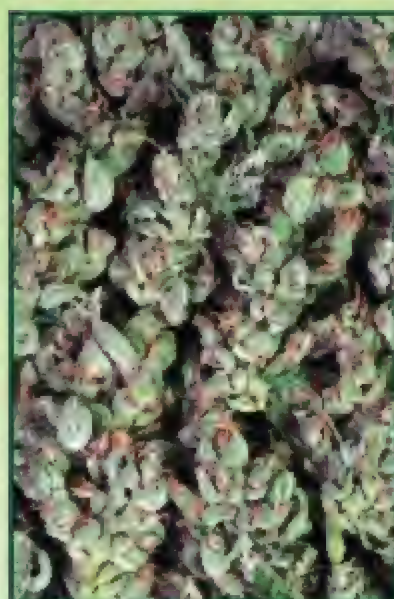
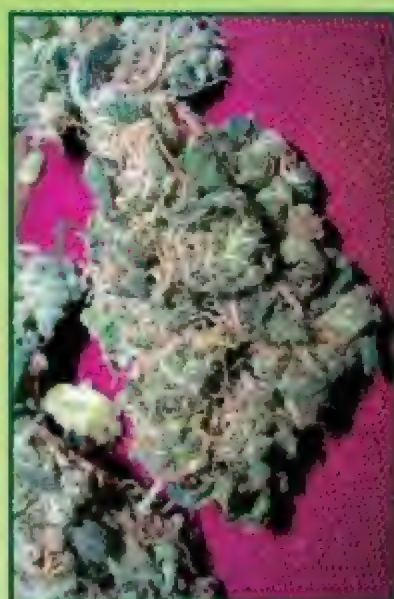
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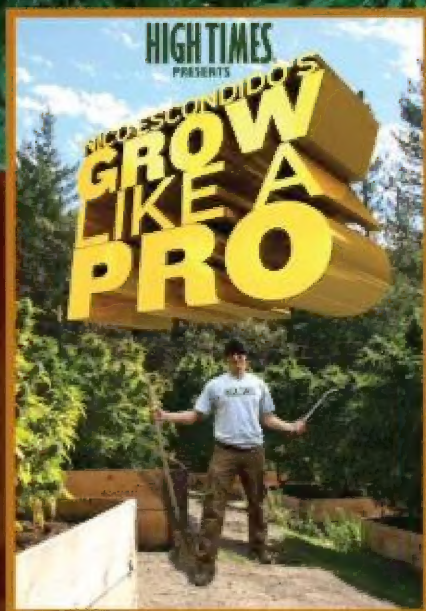
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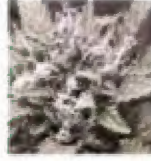
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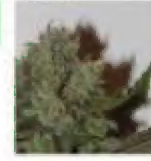
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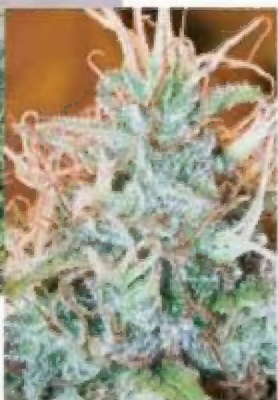
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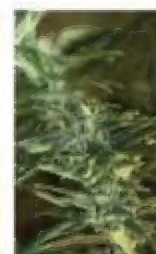
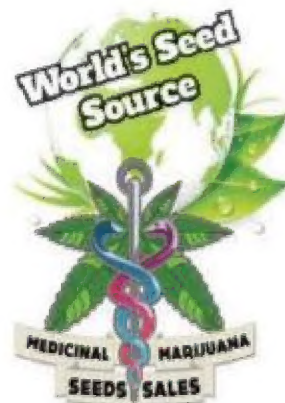
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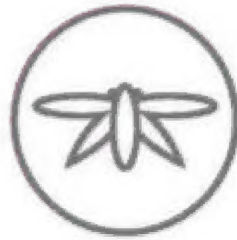
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